

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Triathlon raises thousands
for charity foundation

Anti litter campaign
launched in Darras Hall

Ponteland PC retires
after 30 years

Champagne celebration for green belt campaigners



STRETTLÉ

FOR A COMPLETE
FUNERAL & MEMORIAL
SERVICE

- Funeral arrangements for cremation or burial - Religious or Humanist from £2095 inclusive
- 'Pre-need' funeral and memorial plans
- Advice on grave purchase - traditional or woodland
- Memorials in stone, marble, slate and granite - traditional or bespoke from £360 inclusive
- Memorial renovation, additional inscriptions etc.
- Statuary, vases, plaques and 'tomblots' - the remarkable miniature home memorial
- Memorial stone valuation/insurance
- Sympathy and funeral floral tributes

Office, Showroom and Chapels of Rest at:
15 West Road, Ponteland Tel: 01661 822015
450 West Road, Newcastle Tel: 0191 274 2471

24HR ENQUIRY LINE
(0191) 252 8222

Thinking of retiring? Unsure of your options?

Speak to
a pensions
expert



independent
financial
advisers

For your **free** initial consultation
give us a call on **(01661) 821110** or
email us at **enquiries@cfs-ifa.co.uk**

CFS Independent Financial Advisers
NatWest Bank Chambers, 2 Darras Road, Ponteland, NE20 9HA
CFS is a trading name of Connacht Financial Services

Serving the Ponteland community since 1996.

Vac Attack®

Your promise of excellence, Domestic & Commercial

Sales, Spares, Service &
Repairs On All Types of
Vacuum Cleaner



Specialising in
dyson

- ALL REPAIRS GUARANTEED
- SERVICE CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

KIRBY

Specialist for
Kirby Sales
& Service



FILTERQUEEN®

Tel 0191 284 6688

www.vacattack.com

Generation House, Station Road, South Gosforth, Newcastle



Summer Zoo Club

Monday 27th - Friday 31st July
10am-4pm (ages 9-15)

Monday 17th - Friday 21st August
10am-4pm (ages 5-8 and 9-15)

A whole week of events to bring out your inner zoo keeper! Every day there will be different activities for you to join in with including helping the keepers with their daily checks, feeding the lemurs, training the cockatoos and walking the Shetland ponies. Book between one and five days, the choice is yours!

£30 per day with a 20% discount when booking all five days, lunch included.

Tel: **01670 841235**

Email: **enquiries@kirkleyhall.co.uk**

Kirkley Hall, Ponteland, Northumberland, NE20 0AQ



Triathlon raises thousands for charity foundation

It may be the day of rest but for more than 200 competitors taking part in the second Ponteland Triathlon, Sunday July 12th was anything but.

Thousands of pounds were raised for North-East charity the Simon Bates Foundation by the 141 men and 75 women who completed the 400m pool swim, 20k bike ride and 5k run which started and ended at Ponteland Leisure Centre.

Callum Johnson was first across the finish line in an impressive time of 57.09, more than 80 minutes quicker than the last finisher who came in at 2.18.25.

The foundation was launched last year in memory of adventurer Simon Bates, who died in a fall while descending Mont Blanc in France in September 2013. The 30-year-old was from Ponteland, where his parents Ray and Maureen still live.

So far the fund in his memory has donated to charities including Tiny Lives, Daft as a Brush, Sport Newcastle and Hoops for Help, and is currently raising money for Build It International - a charity that trains communities in Africa by giving them skills to fight poverty.

The two Ponteland triathlons have alone raised more than £20,000 so far.

Music agent Mick Forster, of Matfen, Simon's sister's partner, helped organise and promote the triathlon. He said: "Once again Total Racing International put together a great Ponteland Triathlon and 215 participants had a great day many competing in their very first triathlon. Funds were raised for The Simon Bates Foundation for which we are very grateful."

Other fundraising events this year include the Simon Bates Foundation Ball at the Biscuit Factory on Stoddart Street, Newcastle, on November 14 and there are also places available for the Great North Run.

To donate or join in with the events visit **simonbatesfoundation.com**



Photos by Trevor Walker

Sad loss to village life as Northumbria in Bloom champion Mary dies, aged 78

By Muriel Sobo

The death of Mary Short in June is a truly sad loss to village life in Ponteland.

She was born, raised, married and lived in Ponteland all of her 78 years. She was known to most people. Always cheerful, full of go and either gardening or baking, Mary hardly ever paused.

Her last 26 years were spent at Athol House where her gardening enthusiasm resulted in the most colourful displays and eventually to Gold Awards in the Northumbria in Bloom annual competition.

Mary Dowson was born into a family who lived at the Old Mill, now demolished, one of six children born to William Dowson. Three were to his first wife and after her death he married Mary's mother.

Conditions were primitive and cramped. There was no mill machinery but a wheel remained. The family kept hens, ducks and goats and over the river they had a vegetable garden and fruit trees. In 1953 the Dowsons moved to a new council house on Kirkley Drive.

Mary attended Coates School and in 1952 she went to work for Miss Smith at the Dairy Café on the West Road where she was a Maid of all Work! Cooking, cleaning, gardening, looking after all the animals, milking the cow, making the ice cream and serving the customers.

Trips came out from town to enjoy a day in the country and Mary was always busy supplying their needs. The parish council bought the land in 1965 and the buildings were pulled down but

Miss Smith continued to live in Pont Croft, looked after by Mary. But Mary needed to earn some money and took a part time job at the newsagents on Merton Way in 1972.

She met Joe Short and they became engaged but did not marry for years. Eventually in 1989 they tied the knot at St Matthew's Roman Catholic Church but Joe only lived a few months. They had moved into Athol House and this was home to Mary for the rest of her life – another 26 years!

Two village traders will miss Mary very much. She was a regular visitor to William Hill and liked the excitement of placing a bet on the big race. She placed a bet one day on a horse because the jockey was a woman and when it won she gathered her winnings and went straight to Billy Wilson's to buy some plants for the garden at Athol House. She liked the colour purple!

She was generous with her time and talents. We will all miss her colourful gardens as we pass Athol House on Callerton Lane.

Mary was a loyal worshipper and stalwart of St Matthew's Church, helping others, baking cakes and scones and of course helping with the garden and flowers. She enjoyed the outings arranged by Father Melia. She thrived on the fellowship and companionship of her fellow Catholics and will be greatly missed. A Requiem Mass was held to celebrate her life conducted by Fr Seamus O'Kane.



Mary in the garden of Athol House

hbopticians ltd
Health - Fashion Professionals

29 Broadway
Darras Hall
Ponteland
NE20 9PW

Telephone- 01661 820008
Email: info@hb-opticians.co.uk



Get your contact lenses and solutions delivered straight to your home from only £15 a month.

What are the benefits?

- Contact lenses and solutions delivered directly to your home.
- Eye examination & contact lens checks are included in your monthly fee.
- 25% off any spectacles purchased.

Give us a call or pop in store for more information.

(Terms & Conditions apply)



Find us on:
 OnTheMarket.com

Residential Sales and Lettings

- **No Upfront** Marketing Costs
- **No** Withdrawal Fees For Sole Agency
- **No** Tie In Period
- **Free** Internet Advertising
- **Free** Accompanied Viewings
- **Free** Appraisals
- **Regular** Vendor Updates And Reports
- **Experienced** And Qualified Staff
- **National** Access To Out Of Town Buyers
- **Member** Of Relocation Agent Network
- **Member** Of The Guild Of Professional Estate Agents



Runnymede Road, Darras Hall

- Five Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Close to local amenities

Guide Price: £699,995



The Old Vicarage, Cramlington

- Four Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Original features

Guide Price: £750,000



Willow Way, Darras Hall

- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- South Facing Rear Garden
- Well proportioned accommodation

Guide Price: £435,000

t: 01661 872 111

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

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



WHY NOT DOWNLOAD
OUR NEW IPHONE APP





Campaigners' delight as Minister refuses 280-home scheme for Birney Hill

Relieved green belt campaigners are celebrating after a Government Minister dismissed an appeal by a developer refused planning permission to build 280 homes at Birney Hill. The ruling ends a vociferous two-and-a-half year battle against the proposed £96m scheme. But with further potential green belt development on the horizon, the campaign continues. Chris Jennings reports.

"Yes!" The jubilation on the other end of the phone gave the game away. It was clear from the reaction from green belt campaigner Alma Dunigan, reading the decision notice, that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Greg Clark had rejected the appeal by Lugano Property Group against the refusal of planning permission by Northumberland County Council.

As former chairman of Ponteland Green Belt Group, the Darras Hall resident had sat through all nine days of the planning inquiry held in January at Newcastle Falcons rugby club in Kingston Park where Lugano had argued there were special circumstances for allowing what is known in planning parlance as "serious harm" to the green belt.

The four reasons which Lugano argued outweighed this acknowledged harm were: a crisis in housing land supply;

need to revitalise the regional economy; development of an exemplar garden suburb designed by world renowned architect Sir Terry Farrell; and the very special location of the site.

Describing the scheme as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity', Lugano had told the inquiry a £10.7m package of benefits would include: £3.6m for off-site affordable housing for rent; £1.63m for a 14,000 sq ft business hub; £1.6m for travel planning and a community bus service; £1.2m for schools and leisure; £1.2m for a community farm; and a £1m community fund.

Other benefits highlighted included the provision of 17.9 hectares of open space and 84 'affordable' homes on site.

But the 'special circumstances' put forward were rejected by planning inspector John Gray, who had presided over the inquiry. Backing his findings, the Department of Communities and Local

Government decision notice said: "The Secretary of State agrees that the proposed development would be seriously harmful to the Green Belt by reason of its inappropriateness and because it would significantly reduce its openness.

"In addition, there would be harm to the landscape character of the area, not in terms of the landscape quality of the appeal site itself but because of the significance of Birney Hall within it and the views across the site towards the Cheviot Hills. He agrees too that there would be harm to the settings of three listed buildings.

"Although the Secretary of State acknowledges that although it is possible to legitimately give great weight to revitalising the North East economy, it is not clear how the release of Green Belt land for 280 dwellings would contribute to that without going hand-in-hand with other

significant inward investment aimed at providing jobs. The Secretary of State agrees that the provision of executive housing is not a key economic driver and the evidence that it is lacking is not wholly persuasive.

"He also agrees with the Inspector that whatever the quality of the design, the achievement of an exemplar garden suburb is hampered by two outside influences – the inevitable lack of connectivity with Darras Hall and noise from aircraft taking off from or landing at Newcastle International Airport.

"Accordingly, the Secretary of State finds that the very special circumstances necessary to justify a grant of planning permission for inappropriate development in the Green Belt do not exist.

"The Secretary of State has concluded that the appeal site is in a sustainable location but accessibility to services and facilities is relatively poor.

"He agrees with the Inspector that...the economic or social benefits of the proposed development are not at all convincingly argued and there would be clear environmental harm. On that basis, he agrees with the Inspector that the proposed development cannot be said to be sustainable."

The controversial plans, lodged in January 2013, had sparked a vociferous opposition campaign, with 4,310 letters of objection to the county council and dozens of 'Ponteland Says No To Green Belt Development' signs adorning the main road into the village.

A site visit by planning officers and committee members attracted 250 placard wielding campaigners, while an estimated 550 residents attended a packed two-and-a-half hour public meeting held at the High School. There were also 487 letters of support received during the formal consultation process.

Northumberland County Council welcomed the ruling to uphold its original planning decision. Councillor Allan Hepple, cabinet member for economic growth, said: "We are extremely pleased with the Secretary of State's decision to dismiss the appeal, and particularly that he agrees with a number of significant elements of the council's reasons for refusal.

"It is also good to see that he agrees that, if changes are required to the green belt, these should be made through the preparation of the Core Strategy, rather than focusing only on issues of lack of a five year housing land supply."

MP Guy Opperman, who had spoken against the proposal at the planning inquiry, said: "The fact that as local campaigners we have been able to fight off these plans by a multi-million-pound developer is a victory for local people and our community. It really is a victory for local democracy.

"I had always remained very hopeful that Lugano's appeal would be thrown out, and today those of us who have battled so long and so hard, will take a huge sigh of relief. There always have been very clear and objective planning grounds on which this application to build on the Ponteland green belt should be rejected. We have all worked tirelessly with local campaigners to make representations and I am so pleased our arguments have been listened to."

Lugano have until August 20th to lodge a High Court appeal against the decision.

Alma Dunigan pops the champagne cork at Birney Hill with Ponteland Mayor Carl Rawlings (front right) and other campaigners.

Core Strategy proposes green belt release

Work on the Northumberland Core Strategy is at an advanced stage following "significant community engagement and involvement".

A county council spokesperson said: "The Core Strategy does propose some green belt deletions in Ponteland to allow for the delivery of a number of important developments, including improved leisure and education facilities and to provide of a mix of types of housing to meet needs and support a sustainable community.

"The next version of the Core Strategy is set to be considered by the Council's Cabinet at the end of September, with consultation taking place during October and November. The Council will then submit the plan for independent examination early in 2016."

Green belt campaigners pledge to fight on

A Ponteland Green Belt Group spokesman said: "Ponteland Green Belt Group is delighted to hear that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has accepted the recommendations of inspector John Gray and has refused the Lugano application to build 280 houses on our precious green belt.

"It is noted that the Secretary of State finds that the very special circumstances necessary to justify inappropriate development in the green belt did not exist in this case. A big thank you to all our supporters.

"Whilst this decision is very encouraging the green belt around Ponteland continues to face an even greater threat. Northumberland County Council has stated Ponteland is central to the economic growth of the county and so NCC plans to release large swathes of green belt land around Ponteland to facilitate large scale housing development in the village.

"Ponteland Green Belt Group is not complacent. The fight continues!"

Developer to discuss 'setback' with legal advisors

Richard Robson, Chairman of Lugano Property Group, said discussions were underway with legal advisors as the firm plans its next move. He said: "We are very disappointed that the Secretary of State has not taken the opportunity to support our proposals, which would have set a new standard for residential development in the UK.

"This is a vital opportunity missed to bring forward homes of the highest quality in an area of acute need, yet which also came with a ground-breaking package of community benefits. Indeed both the Inspector and Secretary of State have acknowledged the exceptional quality of the proposal.

"Our development at Birney Hill Farm would have secured much-needed investment in local infrastructure for all Ponteland residents, as well as creating jobs and affordable homes for young people and families.

"Despite this setback, we remain committed to bringing forward proposals that will help secure the economic future of both Northumberland and the North-East which demonstrate that new housing can be done to an exceptional design standard and in a way that showcases the best of the region.

"We will be considering the Secretary of State's decision in detail with our legal advisors."



Photo by Keith Robertson

Weatherman brings the sun for park party

TV weather presenter Paul Mooney brought the sunshine as picnicking families enjoyed an afternoon of free musical entertainment in the park.

The BBC Newcastle weatherman compered the sixth annual Music in the Park event held in Ponteland Park on Sunday June 28. Performers included singer Alesha Lee, North Tyneside Steel Band, Rendezvous Jazz Band, The Ringtunes and Ponteland Community Band.

Music in the Park is run as part of the Town Council's vision of giving residents a real sense of pride in Ponteland.

Ponteland Town Mayor Councillor Carl Rawlings said: "It was a very happy family day which went very well. I heard one of the local residents say on the way out 'what a nice way to spend a lovely Sunday afternoon'. There were people there of all ages and with such a varied programme of music there was something for everyone.

"I'd like to thank all the volunteers on the organising committee, the Scouts and Boys' Brigade for helping set up and dismantle the marquee, and members of the public who tidied up leaving the park in an immaculate condition."

Photos by Pat Walker





Lock your cars when you park up for the night



By PC Rob Anderson
Ponteland Neighbourhood Beat Manager

In the period between June 15th and July 13th we have had nine crimes recorded for the Ponteland area.

These break down to the following offences:

- One house burglary
- Three thefts from motor vehicles
- One damage to property
- One offence of being in charge of a dangerous dog
- One theft from a dwelling
- One theft from a garden
- One assault.

Enquiries are ongoing in relation to these offences with arrests having been made where possible.

There have been more thefts from insecure motor vehicles in the area. Please remember to lock your vehicle doors when you leave them parked up. Even if the vehicle is parked on your drive it could still be entered if it's left unlocked.

Please report all crimes to us, no matter how trivial you feel they may be. This helps us to build a picture of crime trends in the area.

This will be the last Pont News & Views police update I will be writing as I retire from Northumbria Police on September 8th after 30 years.

It has been a pleasure to work in the community both for you and alongside a lot of you. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has made my time here both enjoyable and quite often challenging. Ponteland is an excellent town.

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:

- CSO 4326 Paul Cotterill - 9.30am-10.30am August 22nd
Merton Hall, Ponteland
- PC 613 Lee Davison - 11.30am-12.30pm September 5th
Belsay Post Office

Engagement days for the Ponteland area are:

- Merton Way, Ponteland - 10am-12noon August 12th
- Broadway, Ponteland - 1pm-3pm August 12th
- Belsay - 6pm-8pm September 2nd.

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



kirkley CYCLES

café - workshop - supplies

barista coffee - speciality teas

homemade cakes & scones

for directions and more details visit:
www.kirkleycycles.com

t:01661 871 094

service • repairs • spares

 **SHIMANO** *Campagnolo* **SRAM**

ROAD • MOUNTAIN • COMMUTE
fully equipped modern workshop



NEWCASTLE DISTRICT CLEANING LTD

Specialists in reach and wash and traditional window cleaning

Residential, commercial and industrial cleaning up to 60ft

Solar panel cleaning

Appointment system available

Mobile payment facility

Call us today on:

0191 290 4090
www.newcastlecleaningltd.com

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Claims Medburn is being treated differently by planning chiefs in this month's letters...

Boorish behaviour behind the wheel

Can I encourage all Ponteland motorists to conscientiously slow down when they see a car, van, lorry or skip parked on their side of the road?

All too often motorists are increasing their speed hoping to get round the obstruction and miss the oncoming car! Such behaviour is rude and potentially dangerous.

It is not only the estate's alpha males who are guilty of such boorish behaviour. Last week I was carved up by a little old lady!

Peter J Hamilton
Runnymede Road
Ponteland

Thank you for helping me make open garden event a charity success

Having opened my garden here at Eland Green Farm last Sunday, I would like to thank the following people who helped me.

Muriel Sobo, for her excellent article in Pont News & Views, The Post Box, Jan's, Dobbies and Waitrose, all who generously contributed to the afternoon teas, Ponteland Town Council for the use of their parking cones, Richard Dodd for the loan of chairs, the ukulele band for entertaining the visitors and Marian Foster on BBC Radio Newcastle for publicising the event.

A huge thank you to all the Ponteland Lions who gave a considerable amount of their time helping to organise and also man the event. Thank you also to all the visitors who came. I am delighted to say we raised £1,135 for the British Red Cross.

Clare Stephenson
Eland Green Farm

Why is Medburn being treated differently to Birney Hill?

While I would like to congratulate the Ponteland Green Belt Group on their recent success in having the Birney Hill development refused, I hope however they and their supporters will spare a thought for the residents of the small neighbouring community of Medburn.

It would appear that the current Government's promise that local communities will have a voice when planning applications are being considered only applies when there are large numbers of objectors involved.

In the last three years alone applications for over 50 executive style properties have been approved in Medburn while the current number of properties in this community is only around 100!

I have noted a few of the key reasons for refusing the Birney Hill proposals such as 'poor accessibility to services and facilities' and that there would be 'clear environmental harm caused' while concluding that the 'proposed development cannot be said to be sustainable'.

These same arguments and more have been put forward by objectors to development applications in Medburn and have been systematically ignored over recent years.

The Medburn community in my opinion cannot absorb further large scale development and any future applications must be refused for the same reasons as those cited in the Birney Hill refusal.

Not to do so could be seen by most as a clear indication that decision makers have other agendas which are not in the interests of the smaller local communities.

David Kinghorn
The Avenue
Medburn

September issue deadlines: Delivery of the September issue will start on Monday August 24th and be completed by Friday August 28th. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday August 10th. If you are aware of any missed properties please contact the editor at pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk or call (0191) 3408422. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the September issue.

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.

The Stable Coffee Shop

Bolam West House Farm, NE61 4DZ
Beside Bolam Lake

Open: Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday
10.30am - 4.30pm
Tel: 01661 881244

What's on...

Ponteland Ramblers

Ponteland Ramblers have organised walks on the following dates in August: Sunday 2nd from High Shincliffe, Sunday 16th in the Belsay/Bolam area and Sunday 30th from South Middleton. There will also be Wednesday walks on the 12th and 26th. 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.

Events at St Mary's Church

St Mary's Sunday church services continue as normal throughout August - Holy Communion at 8am, the main service at 10am (including All Age Worship on Sunday August 16th), and an Evening Service at 6.30pm (except on August 9th). There is also a Communion Service at 10am every Wednesday morning. You will be very welcome. The church is open every day if you want some space to think and pray, and to enjoy Ponteland's beautiful church. Holy Saviour Church in Milbourne has a service at 11.15am every Sunday. The church is open every Sunday afternoon for visitors.

Ponteland U3A

Our speaker at the monthly meeting on Wednesday August 5th is Anthea Lang and her topic is 'Death, Disease and Dastardly Deeds'. We meet in St Mary's Church Hall at 2pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Visitors are welcome. No charge. Interested in our activities? Come to a monthly meeting, visit our website at www.u3asites.org.uk/ponteland or ring the membership secretary on (01661) 822225. Our next meeting will be on September 2nd.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

Our speaker on Monday August 10th is Ray Stephenson whose talk is entitled 'Real recordings of WW1 and WW2'. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of every month in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, at 2.30pm.

Ponteland Embroiderers' Guild

Monday August 24th at 2pm Branch Workshop. We continue 'Exploring Stitches' with crewel and canvas work stitches featured in previous workshops. 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). You can become a member, or join us for a meeting as a visitor (£4). Contact: Sec. eg_ne_ponteland@btinternet.com or (01661) 881395.

Ponteland Methodist Church - by the traffic lights

Sunday 9.45am 'The Bridge' - modern worship. Sunday services 10am and 6.30pm, all followed by refreshments. Children's 'stepping stones' during morning services. Monday 'open door' drop-in café, 2pm - 4pm, drinks/scones/cakes/friendship. House groups & Fellowship meetings, walking groups, carpet bowls, prayer and Fairtrade groups, Thursday toddlers, Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade and much more! Contact Ann at anncooperx@gmail.com or on (01661) 824347.

Audio Book Group

The group is for people who have visual impairment or face barriers in reading printed books. It is an opportunity to share books, listen to different authors or old favourites, and hear other people's views. Each month members take home an audio book, then return to the next meeting for an informal and relaxed discussion lead by the group leader. We meet at Ponteland Library on the first Monday of each month from 10.30am-12noon. Membership is free. Contact Ros.Markham@northumberland.gov.uk or (01661) 823594.

St Mary's Church Ovingham Flower Festival 'Fire & Ice'

Friday August 28th and Saturday August 29th 10am to 4pm and Sunday August 30th 11am to 4pm, concluding with Songs of Praise. Refreshments available. In aid of St Mary's Church heating and development project.

Line dancing

We meet every Wednesday at 7pm in St Mary's Church Hall. We have lots of laughs, friendship and exercise to music. The cost is £20 for ten sessions. Dancing is at Beginner and Intermediate level. New dancers are always welcome, free taster session offered. Contact Rosemary Gray on (01661) 822493.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ponteland Parish Flower Show

The 38th Annual Show will be held in Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday September 12th. There are 132 classes covering

flowers, vegetables, fruit, children, cookery, handicrafts, art, wine, and photography. Paper schedules with entry forms are available in Ponteland Library and various other locations in Ponteland, also in Heddon-on-the-Wall, Belsay and Dinnington. The schedule can also be accessed electronically on www.pontelandflowershow.co.uk. As an incentive to enter, the prize money has been doubled this year with no increases in entry fees (children's entries are free). Any queries - please contact Syd Cowan on (01661) 824459 or syd.cowan@btinternet.com

Rugby World Cup day at the Diamond Inn

Sports fans are being invited to enjoy the Rugby World Cup at a special event being held at the Diamond Inn in October. The Rugby Club, in conjunction with the Diamond Inn, is organising a bash in a marquee in the rear car park at the Diamond on Saturday October 3rd, starting at 11am. There are three live games being shown on a big screen - Japan v Samoa kicks off at 2.30pm, Scotland v South Africa is at 4.45pm and England v Australia follows at 8pm. The Rugby Club is providing barbecue food within the ticket price of £7.50 per head or £20 for three tickets.

Pont Charity Group concert

Pont Charity Group is holding a concert at Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday October 31st starting 7.30pm. Just 4 Men return by popular demand. Tickets costing £10 are for sale at Geoff Steven opticians, 25 Main Street, Ponteland, at Stait Photography, 4 Market Place, Morpeth, and online at Eventbrite. The entertainment includes a bar and raffle with proceeds to Tynedale Hospice at Home.


Across the globe, the Kumon Maths and English Programmes advance students beyond their school level.

Contact your local Instructor for a free assessment.

Ponteland Study Centre
Liz Burrin **01661 823273**

KUMON

Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.



A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD

kumon.co.uk

If you would love to try Zumba® but think it may be too energetic for you why not try Zumba® Gold. Lower impact, easy to follow Zumba® rhythms whatever your level of fitness.

Ponteland Methodist Church
Tuesdays 11am-11.45am
Ponteland United Reformed Church
Thursdays 9.30am-10-15am

£4.00

www.lindseythomsonheley.zumba.com Tel: 07732 359399






GRANT APPLICATION – HOLY SAVIOUR CHURCH, MILBOURNE

A grant of £300 towards the cost of churchyard maintenance was approved following an application by Holy Saviour Church, Milbourne.

PROJECTS REPORT

It was reported that the refurbishment of the public toilets was progressing well.

FLOOD RESILIENCE PLANNING

A meeting was held with flood planning consultant Lynne Dunleavy on June 22nd to discuss what was required to compile a flood resilience plan and the steps that should be followed. The Council agreed to have a further meeting so councillors could examine the plans of other areas in more detail and fill in the relevant templates under the guidance of the consultant.

PONTELAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Town Council discussed the draft terms of reference in respect of the sub group to be named 'Ponteland Core Strategy Consultation Group'. This group would comprise of five representatives from the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and would include the three town council representatives on that group. Terms of reference were agreed by the Council.

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The County Council is carrying out a consultation regarding Polling Districts and Polling Places within the county. Residents/electors are initially being asked for their views on current arrangements which will be

considered by the Acting Returning Officer, who will then publish his observations. Comments are required by July 28th. The Council agreed to submit comments which included requesting the use of the Memorial Hall as a Polling Station rather than the Leisure Centre and also the use of St Mary's Church Hall for the East ward as well as the North. The use of Dalton Village Hall for the West ward/division would also be suggested.

HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

The Highways Working Party had met on June 12th. The Council had agreed to purchase another Speed Indicator Sign (SID) as part of their recent wish list deliberations. The Working Party recommended that this sign be located on Callerton Lane at a location to be agreed by the County Council and this was approved.

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Working Party had met on June 22nd. The Council agreed to retain the play area at Guardians Court following a survey of residents. Members also agreed to carry out some maintenance to the metal railings surrounding the play area and to examine the play equipment to determine whether it required replacement or maintenance. The Clerk was also asked to send another letter to Miller Homes regarding the gates at the back of the play area.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Dodd referred to an article that had appeared in the local press setting out reasons why County Hall should not be re-located to Ashington. Coun Dodd also reported that he had submitted a motion to Council regarding airport parking charges and the associated problems of parking outside of the airport until it was time to pick up relatives etc but it had been voted

against. He also referred to a recent incident in the park regarding an altercation between a group of youths. The Police had been called and this had been raised at the LMAPS meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Diary

A list of events and meetings attended by the Mayor during June was circulated to the Council.

Review of Music in the Park event

The Mayor referred to the above event that had been held on Sunday June 28th. It had been well attended and well received by the audience. He expressed thanks to all those who had helped with the organisation of the event and the setting up and dismantling on the day itself.

Reports by Town Council representatives on local organisations

David Gambles had produced a report relating to his attendance at an Arriva Briefing sessions held at County Hall on July 6th as a member of the Council's Bus Users Group. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the proposed changes to Arriva services in the county that would take effect from September 6th. The one item that related to Ponteland was the withdrawal of the 100 service between Morpeth, Kirkley Hall, Ponteland, Newcastle Airport and Cramlington. This service had been provided for students of Kirkley Hall although the public had been able to use the bus also. This was no longer the case and the 100 service ceased to operate on July 3rd.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on July 8th.

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 when trimming your hedges and trees.

The Town Council would also thank all householders who go even further and cut the grass in front or adjacent to their house and some who plant flowers.

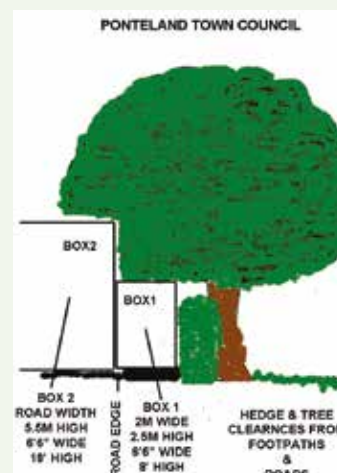




Photo society exhibition leads to dental surgery commission

An exhibition by Ponteland Photographic Society at the Party in the Park in June led to a commission by a local dental surgery.

Dentist Kevin Higgins was at the event when the photograph of Hadrian's Wall by member Bill Norfolk, of Dinnington, caught his eye. A large canvas copy was then commissioned and delivered to the Higgins & Winter dental practice on Bell Villas.

Patients waiting in reception can now also enjoy a slideshow of regional images sent in by local photographers, including member June Atkinson's pic of a Derwent Swan shown here.

Another exhibition followed in Ponteland Library, and from August 17th until September 5th there will be a new display of work there by members.

Next season's meetings start on Monday September 7th at Merton Hall, starting at 7.30pm. For more information visit pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk





extensions
conversions
new houses

www.planitdesign.uk.com
info@planitdesign.uk.com
call 0854 604 3757

RIBA 
Chartered Architects








Going On Holiday?
**Leave Your Property
In Safe Hands**

Impeccable Verifiable Background

You don't need to have
pets to use
propertyandpets.co.uk

Tel: 01670 735 169 Mob: 07974 406 395
or check out our website. www.propertyandpets.co.uk

Prize money doubled for this year's flower show

The prize money has been doubled for the 38th Ponteland Parish Flower Show being held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday September 12th.

This year there are 132 classes covering flowers, vegetables, fruit, children, cookery, handicrafts, art, wine, and photography.

As an incentive to enter, the prize money has been doubled this year with no increases in entry fees (children's entries are free). Entries are open to residents of Ponteland and adjoining parishes, children attending all schools in the parishes and to members of organisations in Ponteland.

Paper schedules with entry forms are available in Ponteland Library and various other locations in Ponteland, also in Heddon-on-the-Wall, Belsay and Dinnington. The schedule can also be accessed electronically at pontelandflowershow.co.uk

Staging of exhibits is from 7pm till 9pm on Friday 11th 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 anyone has any queries, please contact Syd Cowan at syd.cowan@btinternet.com or on (01661) 824459.



David and Marjorie Goodchild's winning basket of plenty at last year's show. Photo by Trevor Walker.

Beth reunited with her beloved Bill

By Muriel Sobo

Beth Scott, one of eight children, moved with her family to Darras Hall a couple of years before the war and her father ran a cut flower business from their plot in Western Way.

This was the same time that Pinedene, the water tower on Stamfordham Road, was a French restaurant with a jazz band playing for the fast set who travelled out from town.

Beth walked her dog as Bill Scott, a mean clarinet player, drove past in his open-topped car. One thing led to another and they were married as the war started.

Two girls, Jen and Sue, were born after the war and they came back to Darras in 1954. Bill, a gentle creative character, and Beth celebrated their platinum anniversary in 2009 and Bill's century in 2011.

He died the next year and Beth died in July, a feisty lady to the last!



Bill and Beth Scott at home in Darras Hall

PONT CHARITY GROUP

PRESENT BY
POPULAR REQUEST

JUST 4 MEN

PONTELAND MEMORIAL HALL

7.30PM SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2015

IN AID OF

TYNEDALE HOSPICE AT HOME

BAR ~ RAFFLE

TICKETS £10 FROM:

GEOFF STEVEN, 25 MAIN ST., PONTELAND

STAFF PHOTO, 4 MARKET PL., MORPETH

ON-LINE: EVENTBRITE

Poster girl's design to front anti-litter campaign

By Steve Hughes

An anti-litter campaign is to be launched in the heart of Darras Hall, thanks to the creative talents of pupils from the estate's first school.

They accepted a challenge to produce posters persuading people not to drop litter in a bid to keep the area tidy. The campaign is the idea of the Darras Hall Estate Committee who asked First School headmaster Mr Peter Tincombe if he would allow his pupils to design the posters in class.

The headmaster readily agreed and indeed took the opportunity to turn the idea into a special school project, with the winning design providing the basis of a batch of professionally printed posters.

Printed by Ponteland Print, these will be sited in the vicinity of the school, Broadway shops, surrounding streets and also at the entrance to the bridleways that are particularly popular with joggers and dog walkers.

More than 200 pupils took part, using their creative skills to produce a wide range of posters, many of which were quite intricate in the ideas that the pupils wanted to get across.

However, the brief was to create a poster with a single message that would be as simple as possible – do not drop litter – with just four finalists eventually narrowed down from 217 entrants in total, and the overall winner being pupil Mercan Senbaklavaci.

Darras Hall Estate Committee chairman Andrew Mate said: "Litter is a scourge of modern society and we believe it is essential for children to be aware of the problem from the earliest possible age.

"The First School pupils were extremely enthusiastic about the project and have really taken the message on board. It is very encouraging that they genuinely want their area to look as nice as possible, helped by being free of litter. The competition has not only produced a poster campaign to be seen by everyone, it has encouraged pupils at the school not to drop litter themselves."

The campaign received the enthusiastic backing of 89-year-old Darras Hall resident Geoff Heslop, who is a familiar figure on the housing estate as he walks ten miles every week picking up other people's litter.



Geoff, who has been carrying out his unofficial daily anti-litter duties since moving to Darras Hall from Riding Mill 61 years ago, says: "I think what the children have done is absolutely fantastic. It is a great idea to get them involved in this way and I am sure that the winning poster will catch the attention of older residents too."

Mr Mate added: "The Estate Committee will be making a major contribution towards litter reduction itself by moving towards a paperless organisation with the introduction of on-line registrations for payment of the annual rent charge.

"This will save the committee from having to post more than 2,500 rent charge invoices every year, with residents invited to register on the website at www.darras-hall.net in order to pay the annual rent charge electronically on line."

Pictured are Geoff Heslop and Andrew Mate, with (front l-r) Josh Dale, Anya Tumia, winner Mercan Senbaklavaci and Ewan Ronald. Photo by Keith Robertson.



**Wansbeck
Garden
Services**

Providing quality service
in garden maintenance
for the people of Ponteland
and surrounding areas

Visit us at www.wansbeckgardens.co.uk

01670 207 909 or 07870 229 083

- Lawn mowing
- Hedge cutting
- Tidy ups & clearance
- Seasonal pruning
- Mulching
- Holiday watering
- Autumn leaf clearance

Makepeace Cleaning Services

Car valeting at your home or workplace
Full and mini car valets

EXTERIOR VALET FROM £25 FULL VALET FROM £35

Other services include

Caravan valeting, decking & driveway cleaning,
domestic cleaning, ironing, carpet cleaning

Telephone **07857 099447**



Ponteland Community High School Report

Girls' cricket win at Stocksfield

On a cool day at Stocksfield Cricket Club, Ponteland High School U15 girls put on a warming display of cricket to convincingly win the Northumberland 'Chance to Shine' cricket festival.



The girls overwhelmed opposition from Walbottle, John Spence, Sacred Heart and St Thomas More, running out convincing winners scoring an average of 80 runs per seven over innings!

The team now qualify to represent Northumberland at the regional final in July, where they will face tougher opposition, but are confident that they can build on their success so far.

Head of PE Allan Atkinson said: "They are a great bunch of girls with outstanding team spirit. I am sure they will once again rise to the occasion at the regional finals."

Hundreds of students attend interactive careers fair

A wide range of employers attended a careers fair where they spoke to hundreds of students about job opportunities in the North East.

The 'World of Work Day' aimed to inform students about currently available and future careers, link up careers with school subject areas, highlight post-16 and post-18 options, reinforce the qualities and skills required of employees and provide young people with an understanding of the regional and national labour market.

Around 800 Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 students took part in the all-day event, held on July 8th in the school gym, library and sixth form centre.

Employers who attended included: the Army; Barclays Bank; Benfield Motor Group; Bibby Offshore; BL Hairdressing; Gentoo; Henry's Hut; Hilton Hotel; Kirkley Hall; MacMillan Cancer Support; Muckle; NHS; Newcastle College; Newcastle University; Northumberland Charity and Volunteering Organisation; Northumbria Police; Profitability Group; RNLI; Skills North East; Sodexo; South Tyneside Marine College; Sunderland University; Theatre Royal; Tynedale Hospice.

Ponteland bids for another gold

The team behind Ponteland's Northumbria in Bloom bid is hoping to win gold for the fourth year running after a positive visit by judges.

Cynthia Scott and Alannah Robinson from the Northumbria in Bloom judging panel found a colourful, clean and litter free village during their visit on a sunny Wednesday, July 15th.

They also saw Prestwick Business Park and allotments, the Diamond Inn, the Blackbird, Peel House apartments and the Bowling and Tennis Clubs. The inspection ended with a walk through Ponteland Park with the Friends of Ponteland Park.

Councillor Joyce Butcher, who co-ordinates the entry, said: "I am delighted with the high standard of the entry this year and I would like to pass on my thanks to the council's contractors Iain Clough, Michael Champion, Jim Scott and Derek Sherlock and also to the many sponsors, businesses and residents who all help to make Ponteland such an attractive place to live and work."

The results of the competition will be announced in September at an event to be held in Berwick and will be published in the 10th anniversary issue of Pont News.



Exceptional eyecare from Geoff Steven & Sons

Professional eye examinations not only check your vision but also examine the health of your eyes and even identify early indications of other medical conditions.

THE LATEST 3D IMAGING SCANNER

Mark Steven said: "Our grandfather started the practice in 1946 with 'state of the art' equipment of the day, establishing a precedent that our father, Geoff, and my brother Chris and I have continued. We have invested in the latest revolutionary diagnostic equipment which can detect medical conditions such as Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Glaucoma and Diabetes."

The equipment is called a 3D Optical Coherence Tomography system or OCT for short. It allows Optometrists to scan the eyes of people of all ages. OCT technology uses light waves to investigate the different layers that make up the back of the eye. The image is at much higher resolution than even a hospital MRI scan and this particular instrument captures a digital photograph of the surface of the eye at the same time.

Chris Steven explains: "When we examine the blood vessels in the back of the eye, the OCT enables us to detect changes to their size and pattern. Such changes may be indicative of issues in blood vessels in other parts of the body, such as the heart. Further medical investigation and treatment may then be required."

Given the benefits of early diagnosis when OCT scans are undertaken, it is important that scans are carried out

regularly so that expert advice and possible treatment can be given as soon as possible. A regular scan will also give reassurance and peace of mind.

AMD

AMD results in a loss of central vision, which is where we see detail such as print and colour. It causes difficulty to sufferers impeding vision for driving, reading, and recognising loved ones, dramatically reducing their quality of life. On a positive note, the latest research shows how the progress of macular degeneration can be slowed down with the correct treatment.

Our eyes are unique and have different levels of macular pigment in the retina dependent on age, lifestyle, eye colour and genetics. Macular Pigment basically acts as a filter to reduce the harmful effects of light. The higher the level of this pigment in the retina, the better



Mark Steven and the new OCT scanner

protected our eyes are for the future. As we get older our levels of pigment decline. People with AMD have a lower than normal level of macular pigment.

It is known that there is a genetic link to AMD. This means that anyone with a family history of AMD should speak to Geoff Steven & Sons about help to reduce the risk of Macular Degeneration in future.

Perhaps the biggest concern is the potential increase in AMD cases as we are living longer. Mark Steven added: "Our cumulative exposure to visible light is increasing. We need our eyes to perform longer than ever. To help everyone get the very best of their vision, we all need to have our AMD risk assessed."

Geoff Steven & Sons' OCT 3D imaging scanner has allowed their optometrists to pinpoint the specific causes of eye conditions. They have been able to refer patients to the appropriate eye doctor quickly so that treatment could begin earlier than was previously possible.

An OCT scan is very quick to perform and is completely painless and non-invasive. The optometrists can discuss the results with patients during the consultation and decide on the most appropriate course of action.



Geoff Steven & Sons have practices in Hexham, Haltwhistle and

Ponteland
25 Main Street
Tel: 01661823374

ADVERTORIAL

What's blooming going on?



Let's communicate!

The new Darras Hall website continues its development to improve communications between the Committee and residents on the Estate. Currently an online poll is inviting opinion on speed awareness signs for the Estate so please take part. If any owner would like to propose a topic for similar treatment, the Committee would like to hear about it.

Go to www.darras-hall.net and register as an owner to enjoy the latest interactive features. More community involving news, events and features are in process, and the committee would love to receive feedback from residents, not only about these developments, but on any ideas for the future.

Payments now online

As part of the ongoing process to modernise the Estate Committee's activities, its website is being enabled to accept card payments and this service will go live in August.

This facility will allow rent charges and planning applications to be paid online and over the telephone using their credit or debit cards. However, the option to turn up at the office with a cheque or cash is still available. Committee Chairman Andrew Mate said: "Most residents are used to paying bills this way which reduces waste and inefficiencies."

Full details on www.darras-hall.net

Darras Hall Estate Committee, Estate Office, Old Station Court, Darras Hall, Ponteland, NE20 9NT

Tel: (01661) 825750

Email: enquiries@darras-hall.net

Web: www.darras-hall.net

Garden photo competition

To celebrate and glorify the beautiful gardens of Darras Hall, the Estate Committee is running a garden photography competition for residents.

The competition is generously sponsored by Cowell's Garden Centre and Ponteland Print. Proud residents can submit pictures of their own gardens, large or small, which will then be published on the Darras Hall Estate Committee website with prizes for the best entries.

The winner will receive a 24" x 16" print of their photograph and a £100 Cowell's plant voucher. Second prize is a £60 Cowell's plant voucher and third prize is a £40 Cowell's plant voucher. Further details, rules etc. on the website.

Start snapping!



PONELAND GOLF CLUB

VENUE FOR HIRE

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

Golf North East

Our recently refurbished dining room is the perfect venue for any private and intimate occasion

We cater for all occasions including christenings, birthdays, anniversaries and weddings. We also cater for funerals, providing a sympathetic and professional service. Our function room can hold up to 100 guests.

We offer a range of hot and cold buffets along with a formal menu for seated dinners.

Our professional and attentive team ensures that you have the most pleasant and effortless time during your function.

With a wealth of experience - both front of house and in the kitchen - we guarantee that we can cater for your every need.

Call now for availability

01661 822 689

fratelli
ristorante • bar • café



ENJOY LA DOLCE VITA

Get your weekend off to the best possible start!

Enjoy cut price cocktails and complimentary nibbles with friends every Friday afternoon 2.30pm - 6.30pm

Selected spirits and mixers £3 Cocktails only £4
Moretti only £3 Glass of prosecco only £3.95

Open all day, every day

www.fratelliponteland.co.uk | 01661 872195

Ristorante Fratelli, Bell Villas, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9BE

New schools golf tournament tees off

Young golfers from Northumberland schools competed in a new tournament arranged by Ponteland Rotary Club.

Six schools took part in the inaugural Northumberland High Schools' Golf Tournament at Ponteland Golf Club on June 30th, enjoying perfect weather and a superb course.

Cramlington Learning Village swept the board with their successful team comprising Camryn Bulman, Adam Wales, Jake Bullinant and Isaac Connell and a very impressive winning total of 125 points.

Camryn and Adam won the individual trophies, both scoring 44 points. The second and third teams represented Prudhoe Community High School and The Duchess's Community High School, Alnwick.

Councillor Carl Rawlings, Mayor of Ponteland, presented the three trophies, a cup to the winning team and individual prizes to the highest scorers.

The Rotary Club thanked Ponteland Golf Club manager Nigel Mills and Ponteland Community High School PE teacher Chris Doig for their support. A date has already been set for a second tournament in June next year.



Ponteland Mayor Carl Rawlings is pictured with top scorers on the day Camryn Bulman and Adam Wales.



INDEPENDENT LIVING
SHOWROOM





Life doesn't stop

But it might change. And when it does our friendly, experienced team are right here to make your life as simple and comfortable as possible with the North East's largest range of mobility, lifting, home adaptation and daily living aids.

Pop in for a cuppa and a Free consultation

(we're just around the corner from Tesco Kingston Park)

Unit 16F,
Airport Industrial Estate,
Kingston Park,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 2EF

0191 271 2600
www.independentlivingshowroom.co.uk



MAXHIRE
HIRE • SALES • SERVICE



PETROL MOWERS
from
£189

PETROL ROLLER ROTARY MOWERS
from
£319

Model shown Liner 16"

RIDE ON MOWERS
from
£1299

Model shown Rider 27M



• **SERVICING** • **PART EXCHANGE WELCOME**
• **LARGE SELECTION OF RECONDITIONED EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**

www.maxhire.co.uk

Brunswick Ind Estate **0191 236 7474**
Coopies Lane Morpeth **01670 512 793**



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

At *Home* with...
 Helen McArdle Care

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:

 0191 461 8861

www.athomewithhelenmcardlecare.co.uk



Helen McArdle Care