

pontnews&views

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Community leaders snub Dissington garden village workshops

Popular priest settles into new Derbyshire parish

Flower show another huge success

‘Miracle’ baby Olivia enjoys first day at school



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Blooming marvellous!

Flower show still a growing success in 39th year

Talented gardeners, cooks and carpenters made the annual parish flower show another huge success.

With 131 classes to compete in, the tables at Ponteland Memorial Hall were all decked with entries in the fruit and veg, floral and handicrafts categories.

The children's section filled half of the lounge area, alongside a stunning floral

exhibition of 'Flowers through the Ages' by arrangers of Ponteland Floral Art Club and Callerton Garden and Flower Club.

Other highlights included large entries of sweet peas, tomatoes and fruit, top class 'Baskets of Plenty', and fuchsias grown and carefully manicured under glass.

Show chairman Syd Cowan said: "It was good to have champion vegetable grower Bob Butcher back exhibiting in the vegetable sections, which were rather sparse in some classes last year. The

wood carving classes had large entries of very high quality exhibits, many from members of a group that meet at Kirkley Hall. Handicraft skills still abound and the art was superb with entries from the High School too."

In 2017 the show will celebrate 40 years and the voluntary committee who run it will welcome suggestions for new classes at any time up until April.

Show chairman Syd Cowan with a floral display.
Photo by Barry Pells.



Force receiving 400 non-police calls a day

PC Lee Davison, Ponteland Rural
Neighbourhood Beat Manager



There were 25 crimes reported in Ponteland and surrounding area in August.

These break down to the following offences:

- Four burglary other than dwelling (Darras Hall, Ponteland and Stamfordham - pedal cycles and gardening equipment stolen)
- Three thefts (Darras Hall and Whalton – notably a large wood chipper stolen)
- Two theft from motor vehicle (Ponteland and Medburn - work tools and equipment stolen)
- Three damage to buildings/dwellings (Ponteland)
- Five damage to motor vehicles (Ponteland)
- One shoplifting
- Five assaults (a male and female were arrested following two assaults at Rialto's)
- One racial offence
- One public order offence.

Sexual offences

There have been concerns raised regarding reported sexual offences within the monthly crime figures. The reporting and recording of such offences are to ensure compliance with National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) which I referred to in this report earlier this year. There has been no significant rise in reports of serious sexual offences.

When to call 101

Northumbria Police is updating its advice about when to call 101 in a bid to give the public a better service. The force receives over 1m non-emergency calls a year and around 15pc of those - the equivalent of more than 400 calls a day - are about non-police matters including fly tipping, nuisance parking, injured animals, problems with mobile phones and scrap vehicles. 101 should only be used if you need a

police response, are a victim of crime or a witness to any non-emergency incidents. New detailed information pages have been added to the force website to help the public find relevant localised advice to avoid them having to call 101 at northumbria.police.uk/contact

Parking and traffic concerns

With the return to the school term, motorists are reminded to show consideration to other road users and residents. I would also like to praise the majority of motorists who have adapted to the loss of the main traffic lights from Callerton Lane onto Main Street in recent weeks, owing to nearby utility works. Police have ensured that the area has been monitored at key times.

Community Speedwatch

CSW volunteers monitored approximately 450 vehicles in the Ponteland area in August and 43 motorists were found to be exceeding the speed limit and received warning letters. Two motorists have received home visits by police and a driver has also been issued with a car seize warning, meaning if they are seen driving in a careless or inconsiderate manner on a further occasion within a 12 month period, their vehicle can be seized and the driver then charged for recovery and release. Any vehicle seized on three occasions within a year can be crushed.

Local police surgeries will take place on the following dates:

Sat 15th October 10am – 11am Merton Hall, Ponteland
with CSO Paul Cotterill

Sat 15th October 11am – 12noon Coop, Broadway, Ponteland
with CSO Paul Cotterill

Sat 29th October 10am – 11am Waitrose, Ponteland
with PC Lee Davison

Sat 29th October 11.30am – 12.30pm Belsay Shop
with PC Lee Davison.

Contact the Ponteland Neighbourhood Team
Tel. 101 ext 69569

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Community leaders boycott Dissington garden village events

Community leaders have boycotted a series of workshops held to involve the public in the formulation of plans for a 1,800 home 'garden village' near Darras Hall.

Ponteland Town Council, Ponteland Community Partnership, Ponteland Civic Society, Ponteland Green Belt Group and all four Ponteland county councillors turned down invitations to attend the events.

A three day workshop had been arranged by the Prince's Foundation on behalf of Dissington Estate owner Lugano Property Group and held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel at Newcastle Airport from September 12th to 14th.

It included a technical briefing, site visit and tour, and break-out groups discussing urban design, economic development, landscape/ecology, transport and architecture. There were also evening sessions held on September 11th and 26th.

Invitation letters said the process of preparing a locally-led masterplan was the next stage following Northumberland County Council's submission to the Government of an 'Expression of Interest' for the garden village on Dissington Estate, announced in July.

Called 'Enquiry by Design', it involves working closely with key stakeholders to discuss the design of the emerging scheme, collect local ideas and knowledge, and consider the key community issues of importance to all involved.

The outcome of the EbD will form the basis of a masterplan for Dissington Garden Village, which will be the subject of a planning application next year and include a comprehensive consultation exercise.

The community engagement activity is being run independently by the Prince's Foundation, a registered charity, with the support of the Dissington Estate.

In a joint letter to Ben Bolgar, senior director at the Prince's Foundation, Ponteland Town Council, Ponteland Community Partnership, Ponteland



The location of the Dissington Estate is indicated by the red boundary lines.

Civic Society, Ponteland Green Belt Group and the Opposition Leader at Northumberland County Council Peter Jackson said they "cannot support this proposal in any way".

The letter claimed the Enquiry by Design would be "a futile consultation exercise" following numerous other consultations where the views of residents have been "completely disregarded".

They included the consultations linked to the county council's core strategy proposing significant release of green belt land for housing development, and Lugano's proposed 280-home scheme at Birney Hill which was the subject of a failed planning appeal last year.

Ben Bolgar responded to the snub. He said: "We are disappointed that members of the Ponteland community have decided not to attend the Enquiry by Design. While respecting their right not to participate, it appears they may have...incorrectly thought that by attending the design workshops that they would be seen to be supporting a planning application. That is not the case.

"Through a series of collaborative workshops held over three days, we hope to come up with ideas that will eventually inform a set of plans that will be the subject of a planning application (which) will then be the subject of full community consultation – where every member of the community will have a chance to say whether they back the proposals or not.

"We are involved in the Dissington

Garden Village proposals because we believe that by involving stakeholders at an early stage, we can make sure whatever application comes forward to be consulted on is a high quality one that the community have had a chance to input into."

Local organisations represented at the workshops included Ponteland Rugby Club, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Northumberland Business Network and Northumberland College.

Ponteland resident Pete Newbigin, who also attended, said: "I wasn't really sure what to expect but I'm finding the EbD a really positive and useful process. We're exploring and debating all kinds of issues that affect development and it's full-on hard work!

"It's real collaboration. But I have to say it's very disappointing that people who should be here, people who represent the community, have just decided to boycott a process that has been proven time and time again to be of enormous benefit."

If approved, the garden village plans would include the provision of more than 500 affordable houses, delivery of a Ponteland Relief Road, enhanced community transport and infrastructure, and delivery of a flood alleviation scheme.

A decision on whether the Dissington scheme is one of 12 supported by the Government is due in October.

* See Your letters: Page 10-11

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Little miracle Olivia starts school

Little miracle Olivia Mawson who was born at 24 weeks weighing only 1lb 8oz is enjoying her first few weeks in school.

The three year old, born on July 22nd 2013 – the same day as the Queen's great-grandson and third in line to the throne Prince George – spent the first three months of her life in an incubator at Newcastle's RVI.

Mum Andrea had enjoyed a normal pregnancy for the first five-and-a-half months, but after a family day trip to Lightwater Valley on the Sunday she felt unwell and after returning home started to get pains.

With partner Leigh out working she called sister-in-law Karin, a nurse, who came straight round and called the maternity unit. They advised her to come in immediately, and within a few hours Olivia was born naturally.

Andrea, 40, recalled the events leading up to the birth: "It was meant to be one of the best days of our lives but actually turned out be one of the worst. The consultant said that 6 to 7 out of 10 babies survive being born this early but

not without a lot of complications - not great odds when they're talking about your baby.

"Olivia was born naturally at 2.19am on the Monday after I had just one injection of steroids for her lungs - we needed four in total for best results as her lungs were so immature. From that moment on we were told that we had stepped on a roller coaster living hour to hour, day to day.

"We didn't realise how true this was - especially the first few weeks. I was spending six hours a day at the hospital and then trying to spend time with our son Luke who was only two at the time and didn't know what was going on.

"We were very lucky as family and friends all pulled together looking after Luke to enable us to go to the hospital so much. After a few very scary moments such as stopping breathing and being resuscitated in her incubator and an initial heart problem thankfully she is got stronger and bigger every day. Finally three months later we were able to bring her home. She was on oxygen until she was one, but that was a small price to pay.

"We were very lucky as she has got no

health issues and is thriving. She has now been fully discharged and living her life like any other three year old. She's so full of life and energy, she's absolutely hilarious and got a great sense of humour. Luke adores his little sister and is very protective; she is exactly the same with him.

"We are forever in debt to the amazing people in the neonatal ward who helped us get through this terrifying time."

On September 8th Olivia, of Callerton Lane, had her first day at Early Years at Darras Hall First School – something Andrea and Leigh feared they may never see.

She said: "Thursday was a very emotional day, seeing this once tiny baby now a little girl going to her first day of school. It doesn't get any better than that - we were all very proud.

"We would like to praise the Tiny Lives charity, which keeps parents in accommodation at the RVI so that they can be with their babies at a very difficult time for any family facing what's ahead, and also pays for incubators and equipment for the babies."

Cover shot and photo of Olivia on her first day at school by The Image Farm



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Family of Mr. Roberts, June 2016

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Popular parish priest Peter moves to Derbyshire

Popular parish priest Peter Barham is settling into his new Derbyshire home after taking over as Vicar of Allestree and Darley Abbey.

Rev Barham and his family had been at Ponteland St Mary's for eight years, and will be a huge miss.



Well over 150 people attended his final service, and there were also farewell events with both Ponteland First – where every child had signed a card, and Richard Coates Middle School – where staff had bought Peter a hot air balloon trip as a leaving present.

The huge railway buff, who ran regular old railway film showings, was presented with an original of John Wilson Carmichael's 1832 book of etchings of the Newcastle and Carlisle line by churchwardens Elaine Nylander and David Butler.

Other gifts for Peter and his wife Julie included a cheque, theatre tokens, flowers, and a picture signed by most of the congregation who, along with some members of St Mary's and Milbourn Methodist Church, had a farewell supper with the couple at The Highlander.

Ponteland mum launches debut book about grandfather's WWI heroics

A Ponteland mother-of-two is to launch her first book in October about her grandfather's heroic efforts during WWI which earned him the Military Cross Medal for exemplary gallantry.

Sarah Reay has spent four years writing 'The Half-Shilling Curate' about Reverend Herbert Butler Cowl, an Army Chaplain who went to France with the Durham Light Infantry and the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1915.

He was severely wounded during heavy enemy bombardment at the front. On his journey back to England he was placed in a cot bed aboard the hospital ship Anglia when she hit a German mine in the Channel. As a result of Herbert's actions that day, he became one of the first Wesleyan Army Chaplains to receive the Military Cross for exemplary gallantry.

The book, drawn from his own descriptive account in personal letters and writings, is being launched at the Lit and Phil in Newcastle on October 27. For more information visit: halfshillingcurate.com

Peter said they would find it hard to leave behind a county they have come to love: "I had done eight years in Ponteland, and enjoyed being in the North East. I explored many of the region's churches, walked Hadrian's Wall, and even bought a house in Hexham. However, Hannah is now in London and Harry in Sheffield, and we needed to be nearer them.

"Ponteland is the place where two of our boys - Theo and Gareth - are buried, so our time has been marked by their illnesses and deaths. We needed to make a new start, away from the painful memories, although we will always be grateful for the love and care that we received from so many.

"I am now Vicar of Allestree and Darley Abbey, on the outskirts of Derby. Allestree is an old church, surrounded by upmarket houses, and a large estate. Darley Abbey was one of the mill settlements set up in the 18th century along the River Derwent - so it has an old village feeling, with lots of new properties. I have two churches, with all the pleasures (and hard work) that that entails. The biggest change from Ponteland is that we have changed from Waitrose to Morrisons!"

Until Peter's replacement arrives next year his duties are being covered by Minister Christine Brown, church administrator Maureen Hodson, the church wardens and other clergy colleagues.

His progress can be followed at northernvicar.co.uk

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The Editor
Pont News & Views



Strong opposition and enthusiastic support for the Dissington Estate garden village plan in this month's letters...

Why we boycotted garden village consultation event

A number of residents and members of various community interest groups in Ponteland have received invitations to the Dissington Estate Enquiry by Design events (September 11th to 14th and 26th).

A number of groups that represent Ponteland residents subsequently met and following discussion this letter has been drafted to represent the response of the following to the Lugano Dissington Estate Garden Village proposal: Ponteland Town Council; Ponteland County Councillor Peter Jackson; Ponteland Civic Society; Ponteland Green Belt Group; and Ponteland Community Partnership.

Representatives of the above mentioned groups will not be attending the workshops. We cannot support this proposal in any way.

Since May 2012, this community has been subjected to 11 significant 'consultations' involving various developments proposed for our settlement. A further Core Strategy Major Modifications Consultation has been scheduled by Northumberland County Council (NCC) this autumn.

In addition to NCC Core Strategy Consultations we have been consulted on:

- A Supplementary Planning Document for Ponteland
- Major modifications to the Core Strategy
- Ponteland schools - reducing from a 3 tier to a 2 tier system and closing an Ofsted outstanding rated middle school
- A 'consultation' on closing dedicated leisure centre facilities and replacing them with a shared facility within the new schools complex resulting in reduced facilities and reduced access
- The Banks Group 'Ponteland Garden Village' proposal
- The Lugano 'Birney Hill Garden Village' proposal – a similar workshop, held June 2012 and hosted by Kevin Murray Associates on behalf of Lugano group.

The Lugano 'Birney Hill Garden Village'

workshop was attended by over 400 residents and a 116 page report was produced.

The NCC Core Strategy consultation statement in June 2016 acknowledges that Ponteland residents have contributed significantly to consultation responses (up to 89% of responses are from Ponteland residents across countywide consultations).

Numerous 'drop in' events held in Ponteland have consistently been extremely well attended; it can never be said that Ponteland residents have not engaged enthusiastically and passionately with consultations held to date.

The common theme running through all of these 'consultations' is that the views of Ponteland residents, who have engaged with the process and responded in such significant numbers, have been completely disregarded.

Unfortunately, it is the experience of many of the residents and representative groups in Ponteland that NCC appears to have a pre-determined plan that has the potential to destroy the character of Ponteland. We believe that 'consultations' are undertaken merely as a 'tick box' exercise.

As a result of NCC's scattergun approach to consultation, the residents of Ponteland are suffering from what can only be described as 'consultation fatigue'.

We fear, from past experience, that a 95% opposition will be reported as if it were a 'constructive meeting' and referred to much later as part of a successful 'consultation'; in the end the majority community view will be effectively ignored.

The eligibility criteria set by DCLG for the new garden villages states they should be free-standing settlements, preferably on brownfield or public sector land, and are in response to local housing demand.

This proposed development could never be described as a freestanding settlement. The Dissington development site is on green belt land, not brownfield land.

NCC suggests there is an objectively assessed need countywide for 'at least' 24,320 dwellings in the plan period. Based

on the 2014 ONS figures the estimated DCLG starting point for Northumberland is 11,367. NCC's surplus over the DCLG starting point equates to +114%.

This proposal therefore fails to meet the criteria set by DCLG.

This latest 'Garden Village' proposal is in addition to a significant amount of land in Ponteland already planned by NCC for removal from the green belt. This is strongly opposed by the community.

By opting not to attend this event, we intend no disrespect to the well-intentioned objectives of the Prince's Foundation when accepting this project. To cooperate with this workshop, we risk providing Lugano and NCC with evidence of community support, satisfying a DCLG criterion.

Not to consult could be interpreted as the community were apathetic to the development; please be in no doubt that the latter is simply not the case.

Given our experience and, as representatives of a significant number of residents, we cannot, regretfully, allow ourselves to once again be subjected to a futile consultation exercise.

(Edited version of letter sent to Ben Bolgar, Senior Director, Prince's Foundation and copied to Pont News).

*Ponteland Town Council
Ponteland County Councillor Peter Jackson
Ponteland Civic Society
Ponteland Green Belt Group
Ponteland Community Partnership.*

Ponteland county councillors united in opposition to garden village plan

We are writing as the four county councillors for Ponteland and the surrounding area in response to your invitation.

We are clear that this application does not have the support of the vast majority of the residents of our community.

There has been bitter experience over the last few years of the interference of the development company, Lugano, in our

November issue deadlines: Delivery of the November issue will start on Monday October 31st and be completed by Friday November 4th. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday October 17th. 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 November 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.

community. That company has sponsored so-called consultation events such as your proposed event before and we do not feel that the community was listened to then and your event does not seem to be any different.

Unfortunately it is the experience of many of the residents and representative groups in Ponteland that there appears to be a pre-determined plan that has potential to destroy the character of Ponteland. In addition we believe that 'consultations' like this are undertaken merely as a 'tick box' exercise.

This view is confirmed by the shambolic arrangements of your proposed event. Not only have most residents not been invited but there seems to be no consistency as to who has been selected for an invitation.

The venue at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, which has been booked as the site for your event, is inappropriate as a consultation location for our community for several reasons, the main one being that it is not at all accessible for many members of our community.

Furthermore for an event targeting Ponteland the consultation event is not even being held in the Parish of Ponteland. The location for this event is in fact within the boundaries of the City of Newcastle.

This informal "consultation" is not a part of any planning application and we can assure you that we do not feel that it is

appropriate for us to attend.

(Copy of letter sent to Ben Bolgar, Senior Director, Prince's Foundation).

*Cllr Peter Jackson; Cllr Eileen Armstrong;
Cllr Richard Dodd; Cllr Veronica Jones
Northumberland County Council –
Ponteland ward*

Community leaders missed opportunity to air grievances

I recently attended the Enquiry by Design process carried out by the Prince's Foundation.

It was a stimulating, intensive set of workshops which provided those who attended a genuine say in influencing the design of the new Dissington garden village.

Whilst I understand the concerns and cynicism of the groups of people who decided to boycott the event, I feel that it was a missed opportunity to engage and put forward their grievances - especially by those who are elected to represent the views of residents in their constituencies, both for and against such projects.

John Chappell

Carr View, Prestwick

Wonderful couple helped me after bus fall

I had a nasty accident after joining the X78 bus to Ponteland at Cowgate on the

afternoon of September 1st.

I was moving to the rear when the bus made a sudden emergency stop and I was thrown to the floor and skidded to the front of the bus on my back. Shocked and in great pain, the emergency ambulance was called and the crew attended to my injuries.

The other bus passengers were eventually transferred to another bus, all except Mary and Robert Turner who stayed to comfort me for the next hour-and-a-half while the crew checked me over and my husband was able to reach me.

They said they had not lived long on Darras Hall, where my parents live, but I have no telephone number for them. I would like to thank this wonderful couple who stayed and comforted me at this time of stress.

Karen Western

Bradwell Road, Kenton

Thanks to gent who returned lost mobile phone

I just wanted to send a note in to say a huge thank you to the gentleman who went out of his way to follow my husband and son through the village from the bridlepath to return my son's mobile phone that he had dropped on Tuesday (September 6th).

Kyle Blane

North Road



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What's on...

Ponteland Wildlife Group

On Tuesday October 4th at 7.30pm in St Mary's church hall the Wildlife Group has arranged for Richard Poppleton to tell us about Trees in Northumberland. Richard has lived in North Northumberland for 20 years and has been very much involved in botany. What you learn should add interest to your walks in the countryside. Entrance fee is £2.

Inner Wheel Club of Ponteland

We meet the first Tuesday of each month. Speakers, cup of tea and sometimes an outing etc. Any lady interested should contact Eleanor Carr on (01661) 871768 for further information.

Ponteland U3A

Our speaker at the monthly meeting on Wednesday October 5th is John Moreels and his subject 'Nostalgic views of the north part 3'. We meet in St Mary's Church Hall at 2pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Visitors are welcome.
See u3asites.org.uk/ponteland or ring (01661) 822225.

Kirkley WI

The next meeting at Kirkley Hall on Wednesday October 5th at 7pm is our AGM so there will be no guest speaker. Jenny Beaumont, Vice Principal at Kirkley Hall, will drop by for a brief exchange of information. Guests always very welcome.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

At our meeting at 2.30pm on Monday October 10th in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, we have Roger Barrell and his subject 'Bullet catcher'.

North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

On Monday October 10th we are delighted to welcome Peter Foley to talk to us about 'Making a Garden'. Peter is a retired Nurseryman (Holden Clough Nursery) and has many years of experience lecturing on hardy garden plants, alpine, shrubs and trees and we are delighted he will be joining us to share his knowledge. Our meetings take place in St. Mary's Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland. The doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. The charge to visitors is £2 per meeting. Details from Terry Teal at t.teal@btinternet.com or (0191) 4132574. See article on the October 8th Autumn Show on page 23.

Ponteland Village WI

On Tuesday October 11th we are being shown how to gift wrap, just in time to impress family and friends at Christmas! We are a warm and friendly WI and welcome new members and visitors for a girly night with a difference. We meet on the second

Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. For more information please contact us via email: pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com or on our Facebook page 'PontelandVillageWI'.

Ponteland Floral Art Club

Ponteland Floral Art Club meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland. Ros Harrison of Dalton in Furness will be the demonstrator on October 18th. The title for this event is Floral Rhapsody. There will also be a jewellery stall that evening with items suitable for Christmas gifts.

Callerton Garden & Flower Club

We meet every second Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland at 2pm. Visitors are very welcome - £5 admission charge.

Ageing Well Winter Warmer

The Ageing Well Winter Warmer event is being held on Friday October 14th at Merton Hall from 9.30am to 12noon. See advert on page 26.

Ponteland Community Partnership

Come to a meeting and share your ideas, concerns and expectations for improving the quality of life in our community. All welcome. We next meet at Ponteland Town Council offices at 7pm on Wednesday October 19th. Contact: pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk or shirley@reevehill.plus.com

Ponteland Local History Society

On Thursday October 20th we have 'Cullercoats, cobbles, creels and clogs' presented by Hazel Graham and Hilary East. Meetings are held at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road, Ponteland. Visitors are welcomed at a special price of £2 per person.

Pont Charity Group: The Final Concert

Pont Charity Group's final concert before the charity winds up is being held in aid of MIND at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday October 29th. There will be a raffle and bar, with entertainment by Ponteland Ladies Choir and Ponteland Community Wind Band, and a special guest appearance by Katie Hodgson. Tickets costing £10 from Barclays Bank and Geoff Steven in Ponteland and the bakery on Broadway, Darras Hall or from the secretary on (01661) 823606. See ad on page 26.

Ponteland Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is holding another fundraising evening at the New Rendezvous restaurant in Ponteland on Monday November 14th. Gather your friends and family together - apply to the Memorial Hall for tickets costing £17 each. Please support.

Ponteland Methodist Church

The Bridge is a relaxed church service which welcomes everyone. We meet most Sundays in Ponteland Methodist Church Hall at 4pm for tea, coffee, catch up, music and a short talk with separate activities for children. For more info email: bridge.ponteland@gmail.com or find us on Facebook as The Bridge at Ponteland Methodist Church. Our new Sunday Club is for kids in Reception to Y8. Have fun, make friends, learn about Jesus and the Bible - 4pm Sundays. For more info contact rchudson@btinternet.com

Ponteland Photographic Society

The Society meets every Monday at 7.30pm in the large room at Merton Hall. Speakers and workshops end just after 9pm and we then break for coffee/tea and informal discussion, so there is plenty of time for problem solving and an exchange of news and ideas. Everyone is welcome.
See pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk

Beading group

Are you looking for a new hobby or want to improve on your skills why not join our beading group? This friendly group welcomes beginners as well as intermediate beaders. Therefore we will work with two programmes according to your previous experience. We meet at Merton Hall, Ponteland on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. For further information or to book a place contact Marijke Shrivastava at mshrivastava@blueyonder.co.uk or on (0191) 2847266. Booking is essential.

Creative writing group

Led by a qualified tutor, this class will inspire and encourage you to write poetry and stories through stimulating workshop sessions in a friendly and supportive group. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am in members' homes around Ponteland. If you are interested contact Claire at claire@claire276.plus.com or on 01434 605276.

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. email Ros.Markham@northumberland.gov.uk or (01661) 823594.

Last chance to comment on Neighbourhood Plan

The final consultation stage of the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan before it goes to independent examination is being launched next month.

A group of volunteers working on behalf of the Town Council have been preparing the plan on behalf of Ponteland Town Council, under the auspices of the Localism Bill 2011, for the past three years.

The process has included several consultations and events to gather views and opinions as well as feedback on proposals from the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Plan consists of planning policies with supportive text, an extensive evidence base and a list of community aspirations.

It can be viewed from November 1st to December 16th online at pontelandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk and in hard copy from 9.30am – 12.30pm Monday to Friday at Ponteland Town Council Offices in Meadowfield Industrial Estate and comments made.

Steering Group members will also be available at a drop-in event on Saturday November 5th from 10am – 1pm at Merton Hall.

If the plan passes independent examination it will go to a full referendum and if more than 50% of voters support it, the plan will be adopted and become part of the Local Development Plan for the area.





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Community comes out in force to create bluebell wood in Sally's memory

The husband of Sally Allan has thanked dozens of volunteers who helped him plant 10,000 bulbs to form a bluebell wood in Ponteland Park in her memory.

Gordon Allan obtained permission from the Town Council to plant the bulbs in an area adjacent to the path that runs up from the footbridge over the Pont to Fox Covert Lane, about 50 yards from Tony's Corner, to be named Sally's Walk.

The father-of-three, who also has the backing of The Friends of Ponteland Park, urged volunteers in last month's Pont News to help him plant the 7,000 bluebells and 3,000 snowdrops and crocuses at a planting day on September 17th.

And the community responded, with more than 150 volunteers making short work of the bulb planting in the sun. Town Council contractors had prepared the ground in readiness.

Gordon said: "We had 10,000 bulbs to plant, which seemed an enormous amount, but we had about 150 people turn up and we had almost planted them all within the first couple of hours. It was a tremendous response from the community.

"One lady arrived on her mobility scooter aged 98. She said Sally always stopped to talk to her on the Broadway and was so friendly she just wanted to show some support, which was nice.

"The Party in the Party organisers supplied a marquee and gas boiler and Waitrose supplied refreshments – tea and coffee and soft drinks, tray bakes, sweets and biscuits. It was a real community event."

Sally's disappearance in the early hours of Boxing Day 2015 sparked national headlines and a huge search operation. Sadly the 59-year-old's body was found in the River Tyne seven weeks later. It is believed she walked ten miles to enter the river by the Swing Bridge on Newcastle Quayside.

Gordon had the idea to create the bluebell wood in her memory to bring a touch of spring colour to the park, as Sally loved bluebells and the couple would seek them out every spring.

He added: "I'd like to thank everyone who supported us. It turned out to be the perfect day."

Photo from the planting day by The Image Farm.



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PROPOSED 30MPH SPEED EXTENSION

Northumberland County Council is consulting on a proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit on the C358 North Road for a short stretch just beyond the Northumbria Police HQ junction and the Jamesons Field development. The Town Council's Highways Working Party had requested this extension and the Town Council agreed to support the proposal.

ALTERNATIVE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECOVERY CENTRE – OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

NCC will reduce the opening days at the household waste recovery site at Kirkley West Thorne from seven to four days per week from October 4th. The Town Council responded to a consultation with concerns about the disruption to users and the threat of increased fly tipping. NCC has given assurances that there would be a clear communications campaign to ensure residents were aware of the new opening days and also that the incidents of fly tipping would be monitored and reviewed. Leaflets on the new arrangements have been sent to PTC and information is on the PTC website and notice boards.

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS

The Town Council is supporting an NCC proposal to make a Public Spaces Protection Order for the control

of dogs, a new legal requirement which replaces four previous dog control orders introduced in 2011.

LIBRARY/EDUCATION/LEISURE PROPOSALS

There were no updates in relation to the library. Councillors were reminded that there was a consultation on September 21st on the proposals for the new school at Darras Hall that would take pupils up to 11 years old. In addition invitations had been sent to all Ponteland Town Councillors and other organisations to a master-planning workshop on September 20th at the Leisure Centre and there will be further future opportunities for consultation with the public and wider stakeholders.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

It was reported that the County Hall site at Morpeth was currently up for sale. Funding for sports clubs is currently being examined, with a possibility of savings in this area having to be made.

AGEING WELL IN PONTELAND – WINTER WARMER EVENT

It was noted that the above event will be held on Friday 14th October at Merton Hall between 9.30am and 12noon.

NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM

The Town Council is delighted to have been awarded another Gold in the Northumbria in Bloom small town category. Councillors Butcher and Caisley attended a presentation at the Lancastrian Suite in Gateshead on September 14th. The other awards were: Prestwick Business Park – Gold; Ponteland Bowling and Tennis Clubs – Gold; The Blackbird Inn – Gold; Peel House Apartments – Gold; Prestwick Allotments – Silver Gilt. The Town Council would like to thank everyone who got involved in Northumbria in Bloom in this special year when the community also celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on September 14th.

MUSICIANS SOUGHT FOR NEW CHURCH BAND

Musicians are being sought for a new band being launched in Ponteland.

Guitarists, keyboard players, bassists, percussionists, brass players and string players are all wanted for the new worship band for Ponteland Methodist Church, due to start in October.

To find out more contact thebridge@gmail.com or tel. (01661) 598978.



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Cancer survivor completes gruelling 12-hour charity challenge

A Darras Hall man in remission from leukaemia has just completed a gruelling 12-hour charity challenge in the Lake District.

After being diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia aged 31 in 2010, Neil Douglass underwent a three month course of chemotherapy and now takes a daily dose of drugs to keep the cancer at bay.

Along with colleagues Steve Maddison, Dawn Harris, Leon James, Mark Collins, Terry Ward and support driver Scott Leadbitter from specialist plastics manufacturer RENOLIT Cramlington Ltd, the father-of-one set off from Penrith at sunrise on Sunday September 11th to take on the epic 'Race the Sun' challenge.

The stages involved a total of 50 miles of cycling, climbing Helvellyn and also kayaking for 3km. The team set off just



after 6.30am and successfully completed the race with 25 minutes to spare over 12-and-a-half hours later.

The aim of the challenge was to raise as much money as possible for Bloodwise, which supports research into finding a cure for leukaemia and other blood cancers, and the Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust, which supports families through cancer diagnosis.

Team member Steve Maddison's wife Ali was diagnosed with breast



cancer 13 years ago just after her 30th birthday. Since then, she has experienced three recurrences and had a multitude of operations, the most recent being at the end of 2015 - completing her second round of chemo in March.

The fundraising total from the Lakes challenge has already passed £2,000 and other donations can be made at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/renolitracethesun

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October events at St Mary's

There are events for all ages taking place at Ponteland St Mary's during October.

They include:

- Music workshop – come and sing or play. All ages and abilities welcome at a workshop at St Mary's Church from 2pm onwards on Saturday October 1st.
- Harvest celebrations - on Sunday October 2nd we welcome Bishop Christine Hardman to preside and preach at our harvest festival Communion service at St Mary's Church at 10am. At 6.30pm we gather for a Harvest Songs of Praise with refreshments. To include words and music familiar and new. All welcome for a jolly good sing. Gifts of fresh and store cupboard produce will be welcome and be taken to the West End Refugee Service and the People's Kitchen. Helpers welcome to decorate the church on the Saturday morning.
- Bible Sunday - Churches Together in Ponteland will join for worship on Bible Sunday October 23rd at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church. Our speaker this year is Rev Stuart Earl. All welcome.
- All Souls Service - this year our All Souls Service, when we remember those who have died, will take place at 3pm in St Mary's Church on Sunday October 30th. All are welcome to this peaceful gathering when we shall light candles, and give thanks together. If you would like a name to be included with those to be read out at the service, please contact the church office at office@pontelandstmary.co.uk or on (01661) 824196.

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Sun shines as Duck Race raises more than £3,000 for charity

More than £3,000 was raised for charity as Ponteland Rotary's Duck Race once again proved another big draw for local families.

As well as the races, other attractions included the Sea Cadets band, Magic Andrew, a bouncy slide and a wide range of stalls.

Rotary President Suzanne Marshall said: "We are thrilled with the success of this year's event, which has been bigger than previous years with more rides and stands and has again proved to be popular with families in and around

Ponteland. We had the sunshine arrive at just the right time to make this a lovely family afternoon."

Some of the prizes remain unclaimed, and anyone named below who has not received theirs should contact Suzanne Marshall on (01661) 824454.

Photos by The Image Farm

First adults' duck race

- 1st I Prior - Ticket no. 406
- 2nd Armstrong - Ticket no. 183
- 3rd Clough - Ticket no. 64

Second adults' duck race

- 1st Stanger - Ticket no. 190
- 2nd Jill Harrison - Ticket no. 191
- 3rd Anna Johnson - Ticket no. 394

Third adults' duck race

- 1st Verna Watson - Ticket no. 131
- 2nd Carol Reay - Ticket no. 472
- 3rd Laura Burn - Ticket no. 160

First children's duck race

- 1st James Olsen - Ticket no. 89
- 2nd Lucas Chappell - Ticket no. 223
- 3rd Sands - Ticket no. 434

Second children's duck race

- 1st Caldwell - Ticket no. 304
- 2nd Jen Stagg - Ticket no. 119
- 3rd Sundin - Ticket no. 473

Business Boat Races

Won by JD Plasterers & Tofco.



Culture kitchen comes to Darras Hall

Refugees and asylum seekers from across the world will bring a taste of culture to Darras Hall at a community lunch event.

Newcastle based charity Culture Connect will be holding the Culture Kitchen lunch with Churches Together Ponteland at the United Reformed Church on Broadway at 1pm on Saturday October 29th.

The Culture Kitchen team is made up of volunteers from all over the world who now live on Tyneside. Many of the volunteers are currently seeking asylum or have recently been granted refugee status in our region.

The volunteers meet on a weekly basis to plan different events that they rotate around Tyneside. They aim to bring people together through their food and music to learn about different cultures and the journeys they've made to the UK.

The upcoming event will see delicious food that is representative of the Culture Kitchen's cook's cultures from Africa, the Middle East and Europe. The lunch will be accompanied by talks and music from refugee music organisation Crossings.

People are asked to sign up in advance if they would like to attend so Culture Kitchen can gauge the right amount of food to buy in advance. The event is free of charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

To attend, sign up at pontelandculturekitchen.eventbrite.co.uk or call (01661) 823910.

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Spectacular floral display at Alpine Garden Society's autumn show

Alpine growers are invited to the Alpine Garden Society's North-East Autumn Show next weekend.

Ponteland Memorial Hall will be decked out with a display of autumn foliage, along with spectacular flowers with gentians, hardy cyclamen and autumn flowering bulbs providing lots of colour.

The show is being held on Saturday October 8th from 11am until 4pm, and there are several rare plant nurseries present who will be selling plants. Entry costs £3 for adults and children and AGS members are free.



Leo wins performance award for second year running

A Ponteland Repertory Society member has won the NODA North Performance Award for the role of Toad in the production of 'Wind in the Willows' earlier this year.

Leo Emmerson's energy, stage presence and creativity on stage were praised as he won the award for the second year running.

Rep Society committee member Lesley Eltringham said: "Huge congratulations to Leo, once again. We wish Leo great success in his course at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, London starting soon."

Leo pictured with Youth Theatre members during rehearsals for March's production.

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The flu vaccine is given free on the NHS to children aged six months to two years at risk of flu, adults aged over 18 at risk of flu, and everyone aged 65 and over.

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Village hairdresser celebrates quarter century

A popular village hairdresser who changed destination after being made redundant from an international travel group is celebrating his 25th anniversary.

Henry Pringle had a background in personnel management in the hotel and leisure industry prior to retraining and taking over the old 'Toll House Trimmers' – encouraged by his own hairdresser.

The decision was taken to retain the building name as 'The Toll House' even though the building was never the actual Toll House. The original, that would have taken a toll for the Jedburgh turnpike, stood on a site immediately in front of the now Lloyds bank building and was demolished when the road and Ponteland Bridge were widened.

The salon, which was originally part of the butcher's shop next door, was relaunched as Henry Robert

Hairdressing in November 1991.

But the business has paid a heavy toll for its riverside location several times, as Henry explained: "Built on the river bank, the Toll House is liable to flooding from the River Pont. In my time here we have had flooding on three occasions - most recently in 2008.

"However, the most serious was back in November 2000 when we had over a metre of water in the salon. We were closed for only a week and fully back in action after only four weeks. During this time we received a great amount of help and understanding from both clients and the local community."

Aside from the flooding episodes Henry, 54, has fond memories of his time at the Toll House: "Over the past 25 years we have seen many people pass through our door. Those babies and toddlers back then have grown, some married and even with children of their own, bring in the next generation. In some cases we



have three generations coming to The Toll House.

"We have grown up, even say old, with many of our clients. I am proud to say that a number have been visiting since before I came along and still attend weekly. We aim to welcome all clients with warmth, friendship and professionalism, whether they are new to the salon, local area or have been part of our 'family' of clients over many years."

HENRY ROBERT HAIRDRESSING

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IN AID OF MIND

7.30PM SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2016
PONTELAND MEMORIAL HALL

RAFFLE – BAR

TICKETS - £10 FROM:-
BARCLAYS BANK, MAIN STREET, PONTELAND.
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BAKERY, BROADWAY, DARRAS HALL

SECRETARY TEL: 01661 823606

Charity group which has raised over £20,000 to close down

A Ponteland charity group which has raised more than £20,000 for good causes in the past three years is to wind up after its final concert at the end of October.

Pont Charity Group has raised nearly £22,000 for the Great North Ambulance Service, Children NE, armed forces charity SSAFA, Children with Cancer, CHUF and Tynedale Hospice at Home.

Its final concert is being held in aid of MIND at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday October 29th.

There will be a raffle and bar, with entertainment by Ponteland Ladies Choir and Ponteland Community Wind Band, and a special guest appearance by Katie Hodgson.

Tickets costing £10 are on sale at Barclays Bank and Geoff Steven in Main Street, Ponteland, and the bakery on Broadway, Darras Hall, or from the secretary on (01661) 823606.



KIRKLEY HALL

CONFERENCES | WEDDINGS | EVENTS

Kirkley Hall Wedding Fair

Sunday 2nd October,
12pm-4pm

Join us for our wedding fair when Kirkley Hall will be looking its very best dressed for a wedding and our team of wedding coordinators will be on hand to answer any questions about our venue, brochure and exceptional packages. Free entry.

Kirkley Hall Bonfire Night

Saturday 5th November,
Doors from 3pm

Remember, remember the 5th November! It's that time of year again, so come along to Kirkley Hall and celebrate bonfire night with us. Doors from 4pm bonfire from 6pm and fireworks from 6:30pm, entry £3.00pp

Tel: **01670 841235**

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

Kirkley Hall, Ponteland, Northumberland, NE20 0AQ



For more information and to
book visit us at:

www.kirkleyhall.co.uk



facebook

 ageing well
in Ponteland

FREE
EVENT

Winter Warmer



Join us for a cuppa & a chat, find out more about staying active, safe and well, local activities and volunteering opportunities that are happening near you.

Day: Friday 14th October, 2016.

Time: 9:30a.m-12 noon

**Venue: Merton Hall,
Merton Road,
Ponteland.NE20 9PX**

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- The only Indian restaurant to be recommended by the Michelin Guide 2016 for Great Britain & Ireland within 100 miles

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