

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Government set to rule on
plans for 2,400 new homes

Merton Way car park
capacity to double

Beer festival extended to
three days

Community rallies for Bridleway revamp

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, Lower Blyth Suite,
Kirkley Hall, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 0AQ

CFS Independent Financial Advisers is a trading style of Connacht Financial Services

Serving the Ponteland community since 1996.



PONTELAND'S PREMIER COMPANY

**DARRAS HALL
TAXIS**

01661 610184

24Hr

email: darrashallprivate@hotmail.co.uk

CHEAPEST FARES GUARANTEED

PRICE PROMISE

**WE WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE
OR RELIABILITY BY ANY OTHER
LOCAL TAXI COMPANY.**

24 HOURS A DAY

EXECUTIVE 8 SEATERS AVAILABLE

**BOOK A DARRAS HALL TAXI
and see the difference in the cost
to your journey!**

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

 **STRETTLÉ** 
**FOR A COMPLETE
FUNERAL & MEMORIAL
SERVICE**

- Funeral arrangements for cremation or burial - Religious or Humanist from £2495 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 £390 inclusive
- Memorial renovation, additional inscriptions etc.
- Statuary, vases, plaques and 'tomblets' - 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

Pont News & Views is published by Ponteland Town Council in conjunction with Ponteland Community Partnership. Inclusion of articles and advertising in Pont News & Views does not imply Ponteland Town Council's or Ponteland Community Partnership's endorsement, agreement or approval of any opinions, statements or information provided. If you would like to submit an article, feature or advertise contact: T. (0191) 3408422 E. pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk W. Westray, 16 Sunnyside Lane, Cleadon Village, SR6 7XB.

Produced by Cian creative pr



Nursery celebrates World Book Day

Children at Ponteland Private Nursery dressed up as their favourite fiction characters to celebrate World Book Day.

From princesses to cowboys, ballet queens to superheroes, the children were joined in fancy dress by staff at the Bell Villas nursery, which is owned by Deborah Jackson and managed by Katie Smith and Claire Dyer.





Please report unwanted pedlars

By PC 8950 Dean Rowell, Ponteland Neighbourhood Beat Manager



The following 23 crimes were reported for the period of February 10th to March 9th for Ponteland and the surrounding area:

- two burglary dwellings
- seven thefts (including one from a motor vehicle during daylight hours when property left on show)
- seven shoplifting
- five criminal damages (including three where items have been thrown at passing cars)
- one public order
- one assault.

Anti-social behaviour

There have been 26 reports of anti-social behaviour in the Ponteland area between February 10th and March 9th. Northumbria Police has taken positive action in all incidents where offenders have been identified; alcohol seizures have been made and a number of Dispersal Orders issued directing offenders to leave a certain area, otherwise face arrest. We continue to conduct high visible patrols in these areas. The mounted section has patrolled Ponteland over recent weekends and engaged with the public. We have also interviewed a suspect in relation to the racial offence reported in last month's article.

Know your pedlars from your unwanted callers

It has been brought to our attention over recent months that residents are receiving visits from unwanted people knocking at their doors trying to sell various items from a holdall. These

persons are historically called pedlars, hawkers or door to door salespersons.

A Pedlars' Certificate can be simply applied for by any person over 18 years of age at their local police station only. A simple application form is required and a small fee of approximately £12.50. If the application is approved then that person will be issued a badge or certificate and authorised to sell door to door across the whole of the UK.

This badge will last for one year only. The local licensing officer should run checks on the individual and most likely will not issue a certificate if that person has a criminal conviction. Although there will be lots of genuine and polite persons with pedlars' certificates in operation, recent reports have been made of persons failing to produce badges and, more concerning, making the householder feel uncomfortable and pressurised into buying goods in their own home.

This is not right, and this is the time to close your door and call police. Local residents have said that during recent incidents the males have stated that they are from the Middlesbrough area and have travelled to the area in a minibus and have recently been released from prison, also that they are operating in conjunction with the Probation Service.

I have contacted the Probation Service in Cleveland, who state that they have no knowledge of this nor would they support such a scheme. Cleveland Licensing has also been contacted and confirmed that they would not ordinarily issue a Pedlars' Certificate to a person released from prison.

At this time there are no known charities,

support groups or trusts that operate in this manner. I would urge any of you to report any such incidents to the police which will allow us to check on the people concerned and whether or not they have the appropriate certificates.

Remember:

- It is your property and you do not need to answer your door if you don't want to.
- If you are made to feel uncomfortable on your own doorstep call the police.
- They should always produce ID, not necessarily with a photo.
- Do not be pressurised to part with your money.
- If in doubt, call the police.
- Do not let anyone in your home, even if they do appear genuine.

Police surgeries

Local police surgeries will take place on the following dates:

Saturday April 8th from 10am to 11am
Merton Hall, Ponteland with CSO Paul Cotterill

Saturday April 8th from 11am to 12noon
Co-op, Broadway, Ponteland with CSO Paul Cotterill.

If you have any information regarding the above or any other incidents, please call us on 101 or email easttynedale.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk.

For further information regarding events, local news, crime prevention advice and our Neighbourhood Priorities in the East Tynedale area, please visit our website at northumbria.police.uk



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




Simpson Home and Pet Sitting
Putting your mind at ease...

References given on request
Fully insured!

For info call 07719 990 817





Potential of Dissington Estate to be unlocked as plans for public parkland and garden village get the go-ahead

The go-ahead has been given for a £750m plan, inspired by the story of ‘Capability’ Brown, to unlock the potential of the Dissington Estate with an expertly designed garden village and “magnificent new public parkland”.

The garden village, and new public parkland, influenced by the 18th-century designs of “England’s greatest gardener” ‘Capability’ Brown, is currently being designed by internationally recognised architects Farrells.

Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown was born almost exactly 300 years ago, in Kirkharle, Northumberland, just a few miles from Dissington Estate. The landscape architect changed the face of England in the 18th

century by redesigning country estates for a new age. Today his work is helping to inspire the plans for Dissington Garden Village.

Newcastle-born architect Sir Terry Farrell is helping to create the Dissington Garden Village as a sustainable mixed-use development comprising around 2,000 new homes, including up to 600 affordable homes.

The site will also provide around 10,000 sq m of flexible employment floorspace and a number of village facilities including shopping, cafés, restaurants, education and medical provision, and indoor sporting facilities.

Around 130 hectares of public realm, open spaces, landscaping and Green Infrastructure will also be delivered.

Richard Robson, Chairman of Dissington Estate, said: “We’re very pleased with the County Council’s decision to support our plans for Dissington Garden Village. This will be a nationally-significant development, the first of its kind in the North of England, and will provide high-quality new housing in a beautifully-designed village setting.

“This new community will offer an exceptional place to live, work and bring up a family whilst providing a very significant boost to the regional economy. Our proposals will also help to significantly reduce the risk of flooding in the area, ease traffic congestion in Ponteland Town Centre and ensure that the surrounding Green Belt is preserved, maintained and protected from future development.

“Our development team will now continue to work with the County Council on next steps and we will keep the local community updated as the project progresses.”

The site is centred around Limestone Lane and the masterplan incorporates a substantial landscaped parkland area around the entire site, opening up previously private land to the public. There will also be cricket and rugby pitches along with allotments and miles of new nature walks and cycling routes.



Dissington
ESTATE

A dedicated, freephone consultation hotline has been set up where any questions you may have about the Garden Village plans can be answered. Call us on **0800 319 6162** or alternatively email info@dissingtonestate.co.uk or visit dissingtonestate.co.uk

CONTACT LENSES

the natural way to see clearly?

Well, OK, there's nothing natural about sticking something in your eye, but for most people it is an easy technique to learn and then you will see clearly the benefits of contact lenses in more ways than one! It really is worth the small effort involved. I know, I've done it!



Today almost anyone can benefit from wearing contact lenses. With advances in lens materials and solutions, wearing contact lenses can be a convenient and comfortable way of seeing better.

So even if you have tried before without success, you should definitely try again. Research has shown that many people who drop out from contact lenses can be successful with today's modern lenses.

No-one is too young or too old to benefit. It has been shown that children can benefit greatly from wearing contact lenses and today age is no longer a barrier as bifocal and multi-focal lenses are widely available.



Contact lenses are a clear 'must' for sport

Contact lenses have many advantages for sport because they provide all-round, natural vision, are more stable than spectacles and are not affected by rain, fog or reflections. They allow protective eyewear or sunglasses to be worn which means a low risk of damage or injury.

Soft contact lenses are generally the best choice for active sports as these tend to move less on the eye and can also incorporate protection from ultraviolet (UV) light.

Types of lenses available

Daily disposable soft lenses

There are a wide variety of disposable lens options available: all of which you wear once and then throw them away. They are suitable for the majority of prescriptions including those with astigmatism. The great advantage with daily disposable lenses is that you will not require cleaning and disinfecting solutions.

Monthly disposable soft lenses

These are a popular and economical option. You wear your lenses during the day then take them out at night to clean and disinfect them. The latest silicone hydrogel materials allow longer wearing times.

Lenses for astigmatism

A wide variety of contact lenses are now available to correct your vision if you have astigmatism, including daily and monthly disposable options.

Multifocal contact lenses

If you are over 40 you may be starting to need a different power for your reading and distance vision. If so, these are the lenses for you. They are available as a monthly or a daily disposable lens.



Enjoy the benefits of our convenient direct debit Contact Lens Care Scheme

At GSS we provide contact lens clinics which offer a free assessment including applying contact lenses to your eyes so that you can see how they feel, and we can check the lens fit and your vision.

We will guide you through the options and offer you a free trial. Once you are happy and comfortable with your contact lenses you can enjoy all the benefits of our contact lens care scheme. The benefits include:

- Competitively priced contact lenses
- Contact lens care and cleaning products can be included.
- 30% discount off all complete pairs of spectacles.
- Comprehensive aftercare for your contact lenses.
- Full eye examination every two years, including digital retinal photography.
- 25% discount of all contact lens and spectacle accessories.
- 20% discount off all non-prescription sunglasses.

It makes sense to spread the cost of your eyecare and eyewear.



Plans for 2,400 new homes and new school and leisure complex approved

Plans for 2,400 new homes and a new high school and leisure complex have been backed by county councillors, despite more than 1,750 objections.

Both the outline planning applications by Lugano for a 2,000-home garden village at Dissington Estate and by Banks Property for 400 homes at West Clickemin Farm, along with the county council's own £57m education and leisure development off Callerton Lane, were supported by members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

The committee went along with the officer recommendation for all three schemes that it was 'minded to approve'.

All three applications are now being referred to the National Planning Casework Unit, which will confirm in each case if the county council can take the final decision or if the Secretary of State wishes to 'call it in' and make a ruling.

The planning decisions were welcomed by both developers and the leader of Northumberland County Council.

Richard Robson, Chairman of Dissington Estate, said: "We're very pleased with the council's decision to support our plans for Dissington Garden Village. This will be a nationally significant development, the first of its kind in the North of England, and will provide high quality new housing in a beautifully designed village setting.

"This new community will offer an exceptional place to live, work and bring up a family whilst providing a very significant boost to the regional economy. Our proposals will also help to significantly reduce the risk of flooding in the area, ease traffic congestion in Ponteland town centre and ensure that the surrounding green belt is preserved, maintained and protected from future development.

"Our development team will now continue to work with the council on next steps and we will keep the local community updated as the project progresses."

Michael Shuttleworth, managing director at Banks Property, said of the West Clickemin scheme: "This is a site which has long been recognised as appropriate for development of the type we were proposing, and our proposals for it were carefully developed over a number of years to allow for a substantial amount of information about the site and the wider local area to be carefully factored into them.



A visual of the proposed housing development at West Clickemin Farm.

"We are especially pleased that this project will allow us to contribute towards improving the educational and leisure facilities that are available to people living in and around Ponteland.

"There is a clear and increasingly pressing need right across North East England to increase the available supply of quality homes, a need which the West Clickemin Farm scheme will help to address, and while the planning committee's decision is now likely to be reviewed by the Secretary of State, we believe there is a strong case for him to allow it to stand."

County council leader Grant Davey said the developments would have long-term benefits for the Ponteland area and the county as a whole: "The (education and leisure) scheme will see state of the art facilities developed and new buildings constructed for a secondary school and primary school on a shared site, along with community leisure facilities.

"The Garden Village will significantly benefit the county, provide a much-needed economic boost to the region and delivering hundreds of affordable homes.

"We fully understand people's concerns

about the green belt, but we must stress that through the core strategy we are protecting more than 99% of green belt in Northumberland, and only suggesting that it should be used in exceptional circumstances such as these."

There will be huge disappointment for the many residents and groups who have campaigned against all three schemes, alongside Ponteland Town Council.

The Dissington Garden Village plans attracted 394 objections and 52 letters of support, while the Banks scheme for Clickemin saw 937 objections lodged with just seven in support. The NCC school and leisure proposals attracted 422 objections and three supporters.

Key issues raised included development of the green belt, a huge increase in population for Ponteland, increased traffic congestion, loss of sports facilities and a lack of suitable car parking.

- An NCC planning application for a new 1,900 sq m primary school off Middle Drive, Darras Hall, is due to be determined at a planning committee meeting on March 28th.

Plans to double number of spaces at Ponteland car park

The number of spaces in Ponteland village centre's main car park is set to more than double.

Consultation has just opened on proposals that would see more than twice as many parking spaces in the area between Merton Way shopping centre and the Meadowfield industrial estate.

The plans have developed by local county councillor Richard Dodd, working with Northumberland County Council and Ponteland Town Council.

Coun Dodd raised concerns about the lack of parking facilities in the area - with the existing provision struggling to cope with the demands placed on it by shoppers and others visiting the village centre to access local services.

The plans that have been developed make better use of the space in and around the existing Merton Way South car parking area, as well as the adjacent U9092 access road. Existing bays would be reconfigured and verge areas used to make further bays.

Under the plans, two walls would be removed to allow a new one-way route around the car park, with a new raised pedestrian crossing enabling safe access to the Merton Way shops.

The proposals would bring the total parking capacity from 48 to 111 - with 40 long stay spaces and 71 short stay, including six blue badge holder parking places.

Coun Dodd said: "I've been working to get these issues resolved for the last four years, and have saved money from my local improvement scheme budget to get the ball rolling. I hope that this will alleviate the parking problems in the area, and what is sometimes abuse of this car park. I hope that the expansion will help to support the local shops and keep Merton Way vibrant."

Coun Ian Swithenbank, cabinet member for local services at the county council, added: "We are very pleased to be

working with the local councillor and the town council to improve parking capacity in the town. This looks a very creative solution to a local issue, and I hope that people will support it in the consultation."

The total cost of the parking improvements would be around £250,000, and Cllr Dodd has allocated £56,000 from his member's local improvement schemes budget to the project.

Consultation on the scheme will run until Friday April 14th and you can see the proposals on the county council's website at northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Roads/Traffic.aspx#2trafficmanagementconsultation

You can make comments by email to highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk or in writing to Highways Programmes, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.



Basketball team victorious at Sports Central

*By Graeme Hopper
PE Coordinator, Richard Coates Middle School*

Our Year 8 team competed in the North/South Cup basketball competition at Sports Central which is hosted by the Eagles Foundation.

We have a really successful Year 8 basketball team this year and we have already progressed to the school games finals, beating teams from Morpeth's Chantry and Newminster Middle Schools and Ponteland Middle.

The finals will see our team take on other schools from across the region.

Our recent North South Cup victory saw our teams come out winners over Ponteland Middle School and Gosforth Central Middle School. Our captain Seb Sloan is also having trials for the U14 Eagles academy and is a very good looking prospect for the future.

I would like to say a big thank you to Graham Heath, Newcastle Eagles Community Coach, who has worked tirelessly in our school coaching on a Friday night for the past five years at least.

After the North South Cup, the team stayed on to watch the Eagles 92 to 85 victory against the Glasgow Rocks.

Beer festival extended to three days

By Ron Clarke

Celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of Ponteland Rugby Club continue in April with the hugely popular Beer Festival back for a fourth year and already looking to be a sell-out.

The annual community fixture, extended to three days, is held inside two spacious marquees alongside the main pitch at Ponteland Leisure Centre, with food, drink and live music all part of the fun-filled package.

There will be more than 100 beers and lagers on offer as well as 50 ciders, wines, Prosecco, soft drinks and the debut of a gin bar. Food comes courtesy of the famous Longhorns Barbecue Smokehouse.

The event kicks-off on the Friday night at 6pm with music from Dunston Silverband and Northstar, and continues with Ponteland Community Wind Band on Saturday afternoon and the raucous Holy Moly and the Crackers and Richard Kain Band pumping up the volume from late afternoon into the Saturday evening.

Leisurely food and drinks follow on the Sunday and the Northumberland County Vice Presidents County game has the backdrop of folk band Alistair Anderson and Northlands, and another debutant in 'The Rock Choir' providing entertainment for the guests.

Organiser Andy Maidwell said: "We are hugely excited to be hosting the Beer Festival once again and 2017 promises to be even bigger and better than previous years. With demand at an all time high it now goes across three days rather than two.

"The Saturday coincides with Ponteland's final fixture of the season against Seaton Carew and on the Sunday we have

secured a Northumberland County game. As always we are looking forward to a reunion of all those connected with the club and the opportunity to thank all those in the Ponteland community who have been so supportive over the years."

Tickets, if purchased before April 10th, are £10 each for Friday and Saturday with free entry by ticket on the Sunday. Prices increase to £12.50 after April 10th. Admission includes a commemorative glass, programme and three drinks vouchers. Additional vouchers, three for £5, can also be purchased inside the marquee.

Full details are available at pontelandbeerfestival.co.uk



FRIDAY 21st APRIL
6.00pm - 11.00pm

SATURDAY 22nd APRIL
12.00 NOON - 11.00pm

SUNDAY 23rd APRIL
12.30pm - 4.00pm (FREE ADMISSION)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Audi
Newcastle, Tyne & Wearside



50th ANNIVERSARY PONTESLAND R.F.C. PONTESLAND BEER FESTIVAL

PONTESLAND LEISURE CENTRE **RUGBY PITCH**

- Choose from over 150 Beers, Lagers and Ciders, **PLUS** Prosecco & Wine Bar and Soft Drinks & Gin Bar
- Food supplied by LONGHORNS Barbecue Smokehouse
- Live Music throughout the weekend

Check website for full information, Tickets available in advance online at www.pontelandbeerfestival.co.uk or at **Ponteland Leisure Centre**

TICKETS
£10 EACH
UP TO 10th APRIL

includes ADMISSION, PROMOTIONAL GLASS, PROGRAMME AND 3 DRINK TOKENS

or **£12.50** thereafter
(subject to availability)

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



County council backed planned housing developments are once again the main subject of your letters this month...

Much bigger protest needed to stop housing development

Readers will be aware of the various iterations of the Northumberland County Council Core Strategy, each of which has resulted in more houses in Ponteland.

There is an equal awareness that strong efforts have been made by our Town Council and other groups to deflect these proposals.

Whilst the development of proposals seem ludicrous in scale, they do appear to grow by the month and we may yet see even more. If a Ponteland bypass is built, land enclosed by that bypass on the Ponteland side could become potential building land with a possibility of several hundred more houses being added to the development list.

As efforts are made to avoid Ponteland being desecrated by building developments we should perhaps give deeper consideration both to our opponents and to the options available to Ponteland residents.

One aspect that has not been highlighted is the likely effect on Ponteland property prices of this scale of building development. One would anticipate a larger, less attractive Ponteland will see prices deteriorate by 20-25% over a period. How does one stop this environmental community and economic disaster occurring?

As previously stated there have been protests to each and every development. However, the total objections to each proposed development have struggled to achieve more than 6% of the Ponteland population. Does one really believe that such a level of protest will be politically influencing at a ministerial level where we will have to drive the decision?

Where from here? We have good and committed people to whom we should

be grateful for working very hard to defend the community. But do we as Ponteland residents really mean to leave this fight to a small dedicated branch of the community?

We critically need to get more of the community on board, both to generate more resource for the protests, spread the load and to bring specialised talent to contribute to the fight. Our opponents have lots of resources and will use them!

We also need to encompass more of the Ponteland population. We need to show national politicians (and it will come to a political fight) that the populace is overwhelmingly against these developments. This is critical when we have a government committed to raising the national level of house building.

To do this we need to recruit a sizeable proportion of the population to the protest/cause. In political terms people numbers = problems = political attention!! We may wish to give some thought to a major Ponteland petition?

Consideration could well be given to some form of liaison with other groups opposed to the Ponteland developments, like Gateshead Council and the Airport Authority. We need to engender support wherever we can find it. Hexham and Morpeth appear to be suffering similar problems to Ponteland and again liaison may be rewarding.

It is about time that the community as a whole stood up and be counted! Complaining after the event will be neither effective or worthy.

Trevor Hughes
Meadow Court, Ponteland

Wasn't Darras Hall once a Garden Village?

Further to letters regarding Dissington Garden Village, wasn't Darras Hall once a Garden Village?

Did people object about it when that was being built? Aren't some people now being hypocritical?

The "Dissi-moaners" are very vociferous; perhaps more so than the silent majority? I feel that it is wrong for people stating they have the divine right to speak on behalf of all residents, when I know many that see that a well thought out development with good infrastructure - including designated parkland and paths - would help complement the area.

Dissington Garden Village can provide housing for all generations - from those who are downsizing to young people. Furthermore, it will provide much needed investment to improve, for example, our shopping areas, more parking, relief road etc.

The knock on effect to local businesses and services would be immense as a result of the extra monies pumped into the area, which will also benefit job creation for our youngsters.

Perhaps not all the developments are needed but I believe the Dissington Village would be a tremendous asset to the area.

Peter Sutcliffe
Middle Drive, Darras Hall

Counterproductive to develop farmland when we need to grow more crops

I was very interested in the letter by Ponteland councillors in last month's edition of Pont News and would like to add some of my own comments concerning Dissington Garden Village.

Some of the buildings are proposed to be built on a large field previously used as a waste disposal site in the early 1900s. An archaeological dig has been carried out on this site, exposing large

May issue deadlines: Delivery of the May issue will start on Thursday April 27th and be completed by Thursday May 4th. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Thursday April 13th. 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 May 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.

areas of rubbish, broken glass, plastic etc.

This is now on the surface and is a danger to animals or children. Who knows what else is under there? I am concerned about dangerous substances which may become airborne as a result of digging up this site.

The rest of the area covers acres of arable farmland which has been in the same family for generations. With Brexit on the horizon and the Government proposing we grow our own food, surely it is counterproductive to re-develop land which has produced crops for years?

Dave Baxter

Collingwood Cottages, Ponteland

Entrance gates needed to separate Darras Hall from mass building site

With Darras Hall seemingly about to become an oasis in a sea of mediocre mass building as we get swamped on all fronts, and with our councillors apparently willing to let it go ahead, isn't it about time we considered installing electronic gates at the entrances to the estate?

Dan Keen

Middle Drive, Darras Hall

Litterbugs should keep cleaned up bridleway tidy

What a pleasure it is to see the railway line between Callerton Lane and Rotary Way looking so neat and tidy.

Volunteers and Scouts helped clean it up on Saturday (February 25th) and I hope all those people who drop litter will now put it in the bins provided and keep it as it should be.

Kate Ross

Eland Edge, Ponteland

New lamps for old?

Having visited the Ponteland Rep pantomime 'Aladdin' and heard the above phrase, I asked myself why the county council had done this in Ponteland and elsewhere when there is a shortage of money?

Perhaps if the potholes are marked with fluorescent/reflective paint they may stand out with the aid of the dull replacements and help us avoid them. Three times our cars have suffered broken springs.

John Pearcy

Woodlands, Ponteland

How can pedestrians walk on pavements when motorists do this?

How are people supposed to walk on the pavements?

This is the top of Woodside.

Terry Parkinson

Edge Hill, Darras Hall



FAB for kids **EASTER** in Ponteland
Mon 10th - Thurs 13th APRIL @PCMS
Childcare for BIG KIDS (aged 8+) 10am - 3.30pm
ART - COOKERY - CODING
SPORTS - DRAMA + more **JUST £27/day**
early drop / late pick up
and sibling rates available
Look out for half term + summer dates!
@fabforkids
www.fabforkids.co.uk
BOOK NOW - EMAIL fabforkids@gmail.com

PONTELAND CIVIC SOCIETY

Concerned about what is happening in Ponteland?

Join the Civic Society to celebrate our Heritage and help us to safeguard our future. Varied Talks and regular Newsletters included in a Subscription of just £8pp or £12 per couple.

See "What's On" page or go to our website at:

www.pontcivicsociety.pontelandonline.co.uk

Email us at: **pontcivic@hotmail.co.uk**

Phone us on: **01661 822225 / 822769 / 823822**

Pre-owned Luxury Watches wanted

Whether you are looking to **BUY, SELL, PART EXCHANGE** or just **SERVICE** your watch, we are always happy to discuss and advise.

We are seeking new, vintage automatic and mechanical prestige Swiss brand watches - Rolex, Tudor, Omega, Breitling, Tag Heuer, Jaeger Le Coultre, Patek Philippe, Cartier, IWC, Hublot, Zenith, etc; Call into our family run business.

THE JEWELLERS GUILD *Jewellery by design*



15 Sanderson Arcade, Morpeth, NE61 1NS
or telephone Matt on 01670 518000

What's on...

North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society Spring Show

The show will be held on Saturday April 1st from 11am until 4pm at Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham. Please join us to view a wonderful range of spring foliage, along with spectacular flowers including spring bulbs providing wonderful array of colour. There are several rare plant nurseries selling plants from 10.30am. Admission is £3 payable on the door. Children and members free. See alpinegarden.net/groups/neegroup@ags.org

Ponteland Wildlife Group

On Tuesday April 4th Dr Richard Bevan, programme director in biology and zoology at Newcastle University, will present on research being undertaken on the wild goats of Cheviot in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road Ponteland at 7.30pm. £2 entrance fee includes refreshments.

Kirkley WI

Our guest speaker at 7pm on Wednesday April 5th at Kirkley Hall will be Professor Mark Pearce who will talk about 'The Red Spot Story', a study of 1,000 babies born in Newcastle within a two month period of 1947. Guests are always welcome (especially Red Spot Babies). Visit kirkleywi.wordpress.com

Ponteland Lions Club

Our AGM is followed by the regular business meeting on Wednesday April 5th at 7.30pm in Merton Hall. Our social event on Wednesday April 26th is a visit to the Biscuit Factory art gallery followed by a meal. Our monthly charity book stall is on Saturday April 29th at Waitrose from 9am till 4pm. For membership details ring 0845 833 9913 or visit our website.

Darras Hall WI

From April all Darras Hall WI meetings will be held in Merton Hall, Ponteland. On Monday April 10th at 2pm John Whittle will give a talk on 'Two Yorkies meet the Geordies' and the competition is for something from Yorkshire.

Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

At our meeting at 2.30pm on Monday April 10th in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, our guest speaker is Prof John Derry.

North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

Join us at 7.30pm on Monday April 10th for Mala Janes' talk 'Alpine Plant Hunter'

at Ponteland Social Club (CIU), Merton Way. Charge to visitors £2. For details email neegroup@agsgroups.org or visit alpinegarden.net/groups/neegroup@ags.org

Ponteland Village WI

On Tuesday April 11th at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall we will be hearing about 'Amazing stories on the Fire Service and light-hearted travelogues'. Email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com or visit our Facebook page 'PontelandVillageWI'.

Ponteland WI

Our speakers at 7pm on Tuesday April 11th at Ponteland Memorial Hall at 7pm are Harry and Kathleen Gilbert with a talk and slideshow 'An Icelandic saga'. The competition is for 'a holiday souvenir'. Visitors are welcome. Our annual coffee morning is on Saturday April 29th at 10.30am at the Memorial Hall.

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 April 19th. Contact: pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk or shirley@reevehill.plus.com

Ponteland Local History Society

Our AGM will be followed by 'The Golden Age of Northumbria: a pre-Conquest history of the North' by Anne Swearman on Thursday April 20th at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornhill Road.

Ponteland Beer Festival

The fourth annual beer festival is being held from Friday April 21st to Sunday April 23rd in marquees alongside the main pitch at Ponteland Leisure Centre. See article and advert on p9.

Embroiderer's Guild Ponteland branch

On Monday April 24th from 2pm to 4pm at Ponteland Memorial Hall we have 'The stories behind the stitches' - an illustrated talk about the history and making of the Quaker Tapestries. New members are welcome - charge £4. Contact ponteland.eg@btinternet.com or call (01661) 881395.

Ponteland Civic Society

We next meet at Ponteland CIU Club on Merton Way on Monday April 24th at 7.30pm, where Barry Mead will speak on 'Cresswell Curiosities'. Refreshments are available and a £2 charge for visitors.

Ponteland U3A

Our speaker at 2pm on Wednesday May 3rd in St Mary's Church Hall will be David Jones and his topic 'Border Roads'. Visitors are welcome, no charge. Visit u3asites.ork.uk/ponteland or call (01661) 824953.

Friends of Kirkley Hall

On Wednesday May 10th at 7pm at Kirkley Hall our speaker from Banks Mining will talk about surface mining at Brenkley and Shotton and the benefits after restoration to the land and community, such as wildlife habitats, sculptures (Northumberlandia), and Parklands. £5 charge for non-members. To book a place email fokh@gmail.com or ring 07751 974944 or visit friendsofkirkleyhall.org.

Ponteland Bowling Club

Our qualified coaches are holding free introductory sessions for all ages looking for a new sport or hobby. All equipment is provided. Bowls 4 Fun sessions are available every Saturday in May and on June 3rd from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The club is situated on Darras Road in between the Memorial Hall and the tennis club. Visit our website pontelandbowls.com or contact Allison Storey on (01661) 872010.

Pont Badminton Club

Pont Badminton Club meets every Friday evening between 7.30pm and 9pm at Ponteland Leisure Centre. Adults of all ages will be assured of a warm welcome. Just come along or contact 07986 388822 for more information.

Ponteland Village Bridge Club

Would you like a friendly game of bridge? Ponteland Village Bridge Club meets every Friday evening in Merton Hall. Play starts at 7pm. We play 20 boards of relaxed duplicate bridge. If you don't have a partner you can still come along - please telephone Pete Ford our Chairman on 07739 208308 and he will fix you up with a partner.

Beading group

Are you looking for a new hobby or want to improve on your skills? Why not join our beading group? We meet at Merton Hall on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. Contact Marijke Shrivastava at mshrivastava@blueyonder.co.uk or on 0191 284 7266. Booking is essential.

Audio Book Group

The group is for people who have visual impairment or face barriers in reading printed books. 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 Michelle Watson at mwatson@activenorthumberland.org.uk or (01670) 620250.information.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PONTELAND

The Ponteland churches wish you a peaceful and joyous Easter

United Reformed Church, Broadway, Darras Hall

April 9th, 10am
Palm Sunday Service

April 14th, 10am
Good Friday Service

April 16th, 10am
Easter Sunday Service

St. Mary the Virgin, Ponteland

April 9th
Palm Sunday
Holy Communion, 8am
Holy Communion, 10am
Evening Prayer, 6.30pm

April 10th to April 12th, 7pm
Compline

April 12th, 10am
Holy Communion

April 13th
Maundy Thursday
Choral Communion 7pm
Followed by a Vigil with
Compline 9pm

April 14th
Good Friday
Morning Service 10.30am
Compline 7pm

April 15th
Easter Saturday
Compline with renewal of
Baptismal vows, 7pm

April 16th
Easter Sunday
Holy Communion 8am
Holy Communion 10am
Evening Prayer 6.30pm

Methodist Church, Milbourn

April 14th, 7pm
Good Friday Service

April 16th, 6.30pm
Easter Sunday Holy
Communion

Methodist Church, Ponteland

April 9th, 10am
Palm Sunday Service

April 13th, 7pm
Maundy Thursday Upper
Room Communion

April 14th, 10am
Good Friday Service

April 16th
Easter Sunday
Holy Communion, 10am
Evening Worship, 6.30pm

St Matthew's R.C., Ponteland

April 14th, 3pm
Good Friday Passion

April 15th, 5pm
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

April 16th, 10am
Easter Sunday Mass

Holy Saviour, Milbourn

April 9th, 11.15am
Palm Sunday Morning Prayer

April 16th, 11.15am
Easter Sunday Holy
Communion

St Francis Xavier, Cheeseburn

April 9th, 8.30am
Palm Sunday Holy Mass

April 14th, 3pm
Good Friday Easter Vigil

April 16th, 8.30am
Easter Sunday Holy Mass

Coates Green, Ponteland

April 14th, 11.15am
Good Friday
Raising of the Cross
Refreshments in the
Methodist Hall after the
service.

You are warmly invited to these services



Architectural Design & Management Services

- Bespoke new build houses
- Domestic extensions
- Housing developments
- Conservation and heritage
- Commercial developments

Chartered Practice



www.ruddick.co.uk | info@ruddick.co.uk | 0191 209 6020

PASHA

MENSROOM

Traditional Turkish Barber

Haircut • Wet Shave • Head Shave
Kids' Haircut • Senior Citizens

★★★★★

5 star and 3 star treatment gift vouchers
available for special occasions

Opening times: Monday - Thursday 9am - 6pm
Friday and Saturday 8.30am - 6pm

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

01661 599359 / 38 Merton Way, Ponteland, NE20 9PS



Find
us on 

Girls clean up with new sponsorship deal

Last year they brushed all opponents aside with an unbeaten season and cup final victory.

And now Ponteland Crusaders U12s have cleaned up with a new sponsorship deal!

The team, who train at Ponteland's 3G pitch, have been playing in the Pinpoint Recruitment Girls' League (known as La Liga) for three years.

Managed by Colin Brookes, the girls play their matches at Benfield Sports Centre and are once again bidding for top spot.

They are being sponsored by Ponteland dental practice Higgins & Winter. Partner Richard Winter, proud dad of player Ellie, said: "They are doing really well in the league - they won the cup and went unbeaten last year - and they are about to go top of the league again. We are delighted to support them."



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT DENTAL IMPLANTS? THEN WE BELIEVE WE CAN HELP

Dental implants could be the ideal solution:

- Look, feel and function like natural teeth
- Can be used to support single teeth, multiple teeth or full arches
- Work by holding replacement teeth in place like roots
- Single tooth implants to All on 4/teeth in a day

**FREE CONSULTATION
AND AFFORDABLE
FINANCE AVAILABLE**

For more information or to book a FREE consultation call
(01661) 872979 or email info@higginsandwinter.co.uk
higginsandwinter.co.uk



Kevin and Richard believe in providing the highest standards of dental implant therapy. That's why they have invested in high quality training, an excellent implant team and state of the art facilities. With 30 years of combined implant experience within the team this makes them the ideal choice for your dental implant treatments

Higgins & Winter
Dental Practice

Higgins & Winter Dental Practice, 17 Bell Villas, Ponteland, NE20 9BD

OPENING TIMES: Mon 9am-5.30pm | Tues 8am-8pm | Wed 8am-7pm | Thu 8am-8pm
Fri 8am-4.30pm | Sat 9am to 12noon.

* Pre authorisation of a debit or credit card to secure booking



Celebrating 25 years in Newcastle

The region's leading bathroom specialists The Bathroom Studio are this year celebrating 25 years since they opened their luxurious bathroom showroom in Kingston Park, Newcastle.

And to help celebrate they are offering readers of Pont News & Views 20% off during March and April 2017.

The Bathroom Studio is still family owned and now run by husband and wife team Graham and Michelle Shanks.

Michelle said: "It was my father Jim Mongan who opened our first bathroom showroom in Durham way back in 1972. At the time he also manufactured luxury baths so travelled the country and the world seeing how the most successful showrooms operated.

"It was his ambition to bring the best products and services to the North East and we believe we achieved that with the opening of our Kingston Park Showroom in 1992."

The showroom proudly boasts over 65 stunning displays where you can find inspiration ranging from stylish contemporary wet rooms to traditional hand painted bathroom furniture. Each display is finished with full tiling and accessories so you can visualize how your own bathroom could look.

World renowned brands such as Duravit, Vitra, Hans Grohe and Laura Ashley mean

that the quality and variety of choice offers something to suit everyone's style and budget.

Michelle added: "We pride ourselves on offering the very best products and because we are an independent specialist we can choose to deal with not only the best brands but we can also offer a wider choice of specialist products such as Dansani, Bagno Design and Waters Baths."

So for those homeowners wanting to invest in a new bathroom in 2017 the expert advice and guidance provided by the team at The Bathroom Studio is truly invaluable.

Offering a complete turnkey solution of design/supply and installation right through to supply only of individual products. They offer professional advice to each and every client from design and layout to making sure the product specification best meets each individual's requirements and budget; and can even help with the all-important decisions such as tile choices and colour schemes.

If you are looking to upgrade your bathroom or ensuite this Spring then a visit to The Bathroom Studio is an absolute must and remember to mention your 20% discount from Pont News & Views.



T. 0191 271 5800

E. michelle.shanks@thebathroomstudio.co.uk

W. thebathroomstudio.co.uk

The Bathroom Studio (NE) Limited, Unit 4D Airport Industrial Estate, Kingston Park, Newcastle, NE3 2EF



Cover shot by Keith Robertson

Great turn out for Bridleway revamp event

More than 50 people young and old turned out to support the launch of a project to spruce up Ponteland Bridleway.

The seven stage project will see 75 new trees planted, two new heritage interpretation displays installed, wild flowers planted and other improvements this summer. But first, volunteers were sought to help clear away refuse and cut back overhanging branches.

Ponteland Community Partnership is leading the scheme, as chairman Alma Dunigan explained: "This project was selected from a shortlist as part of our local heritage. The Bridleway was originally the old railway track from the early 1900s and is now well used as a treasured route for recreation, dog walkers, joggers and cyclists, whilst still retaining its rural surroundings.

"Our aim was to improve this well used community facility by tidying up this middle stretch of the Bridleway. This will allow the pathway to be given a narrow skim along the surface and hardcore, if required to be reinstated. This can only be done once some hand pruning has been completed; then the shredding and scattering back along the sides of the path.

"Due to the bird nesting season we have been restricted to when this activity could take place and we aim to complete this part of the project in the early summer. By then we intend to install two display pedestals along the route."

Amongst the residents attending the launch event were members of the Footpath Users Group, Ponteland Wildlife Group, Friends of the Park, Ponteland Greenbelt Group, Ponteland Civic Society, Ponteland Lions, Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Ponteland 1st Scouts.

Alma said she was delighted with the support for the project: "No one anticipated this would be so well supported by a cross section of the community, and what started as just wanting a handful of people to give up a couple of hours turned into a project with a mind of its own.

"Thanks must be given to the county council's area countryside officer Tim Fish for all his support to the project supplying 75 trees, the equipment required at the events and arranging the work after the volunteers have completed their tasks."

Ponteland Community Partnership was set up in 2003 to identify the things that really matter to people who live and work in Ponteland Civil Parish to improve their quality of life, and work with all interested parties to develop acceptable ways of meeting these needs.

Ponteland Town Council will include the ongoing project as part of the "Britain in Bloom" and "Northumbria in Bloom" bids and further clean-up exercises will be arranged to coincide with the judges' visits in April, July and August. Check for dates and times at pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk



Eggstravaganza Easter Family Fun

Saturday 8th - Sunday 23rd April, 10am-4pm

Come along to Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens and take part in our Easter fun!

You can join in on an egg hunt, craft sessions and story time!



T. 01670 841235 W. www.kirkleyhallzoo.co.uk

ARE YOU *PRESSED* FOR TIME?

SHIRTKING & EASY STITCH:

THE SEAMLESS SOLUTION FOR ALL YOUR PROFESSIONAL SHIRT LAUNDRY & EXPERT CLOTHING ALTERATION NEEDS.



Established in 1998 with a reputation for high quality, excellence and great value, Dulais Dry Cleaners has long been the first choice for quality fabric and garment care in Ponteland. This family run business, which delivers first-class laundry and dry cleaning services to businesses as well as the general public, are always looking for innovative new ways to provide additional specialist garment cleaning and care services designed to make your life easier.

EASY STITCH - EXPERT ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

At Easy Stitch we understand that one size does not fit all. When it comes to alterations for all kinds of clothes, apparel - even curtains and other household furnishings - we're delighted to offer a professional service from our very own team of on-site expert seamstresses.

With a wealth of experience our friendly, helpful staff provides a host of alteration and repair services, covering everything from skilled adjustment of a prized designer label outfit to installing zips, replacing missing buttons and everything in between.

Our in-store changing room and specialist fitting service is available throughout normal opening hours enabling you to pop in and speak to our professional seamstresses whenever it suits you.

GET GREAT LOOKING SHIRTS EVERY TIME WITH SHIRTKING

ShirtKing is a revolutionary new shirt pressing service utilising state of the art 'no-touch' steam technology to give a wonderfully crisp finish. In addition to providing the very best in shirt laundry cleaning, by avoiding contact with any hot irons during the main pressing stage, ShirtKing delivers not only a smart, wrinkle-free appearance but also keeps your shirts looking better for longer!

THE FOUR STEPS TO A PERFECT SHIRT:

- Specialist pre-treating to remove tough grime from collar & cuffs
 - Professional washing with high quality detergents and degreasers
 - Special collar & cuff machine for a firm wrinkle free finish
 - 'No touch' steam finishing for the ultimate professional appearance
- Starch can be also be added if required to give your shirts extra body and firmness. Shirts can also be folded in purpose made, self-seal bags - Keeping them in perfect condition and providing easy portability for travelers and business people who are always on the move.

For more information on any of our services please visit www.dulais.com
Dulais, 27 Broadway, Darras Hall, NE20 9PW | 01661 820 700

4

SELECTED
GARMENTS
CLEANED &
HAND FINISHED

£18.95*

*Exclusions apply

DULAIS
SPECIALIST CLEANERS

www.dulais.com

5

SHIRTS
WASHED & IRONED

£12.50

ShirtKING
LAUNDRY & IRONING

www.shirtking.co.uk

HIGH QUALITY
CLOTHING ALTERATIONS
& REPAIRS

- ☒ Jeans shortened
- ☒ Trousers altered
- ☒ Waists altered
- ☒ Jackets altered
- ☒ New zips
- ☒ Skirts and dresses altered



easystitch
ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

www.easystitch.co.uk



Ponteland Community High School Report

Ponteland High wins a visit from Seven Stories on World Book Day!

We recently won an art competition 'Oodles of Doodles, run by First Class Supply, in which the first prize was a visit from Seven Stories on World Book Day.

The visit involved Michael Lockhart and Steph Durkin from Seven Stories delivering a workshop in the Library to three groups of Year 9 students; the session was based around 'How to get confident choosing a book'.

The workshop started by asking the students to make a choice from two very opposing options. They were asked to choose whether they were 'totally bald', or 'covered in hair' or 'that they couldn't lie' or 'always told the truth'.

This was linked to selecting books and how it was okay to say you didn't like a book. The workshop also taught students not to judge a book by its cover using a picture book with a non-descriptive cover. The stories the groups were describing from the picture within were very elaborate, descriptive and adventurous.

Eight Year 9 students from Ponteland High School had their work submitted: Louis Sykes; Promisha Chowdhury; Milly Walker; Jason



Gibson; Amber Wright; Max Austin; Andrew Miller and Elizabeth Quigley. The standard of the work submitted by the students for the competition was very high, with Elizabeth Quigley chosen as the overall winner.

School Librarian Ann Marie Laws said: "The students really enjoyed the experience and it was great to see books brought to life in such an inspiring way - I loved it too!"

Sabrina wins first prize in young chef competition

Following on from her success in the Ponteland District Rotary Young Chef competition, our very own Year 9 student Sabrina Jackland has gone on to scoop first prize in the county heat which was held at Duchess High School in Alnwick.

Sabrina fought off stiff competition from contenders across the county, but came out triumphant with her menu of stuffed portobello mushrooms, chicken arabiatta pasta and baked cinnamon apples.

Sabrina progressed to the Rotary Young Chef Regional Final in Dundee.

Elaine Smith, who leads the area Rotary Youth Service, offered her congratulations to 'a talented young lady'.

Nichola Gray, Raising Achievement Deputy for Technology at Ponteland High School, said: "Sabrina is a very talented young chef and she deserved to win both heats. The amount of planning and preparation she has put into the competition has been particularly impressive."

Sam signs for Sheffield United

Talented footballer Sam McClellan has been offered a two year scholarship contract with Sheffield United.

The Year 11 student recently played in three trial games with Sheffield United Football Club and impressed them with goals in all three matches.

Steve Holmes, Head of Recruitment at Sheffield United, visited Ponteland High School for Sam McClellan to sign his contract with the South Yorkshire club.

Steve said: "Sam was invited into Sheffield United for an initial trial, allowing him to showcase his ability to the Academy staff after having

impressed in a fixture at our training ground for his boys club in Wallsend.

"During this time, he scored six goals in three games and demonstrated the potential that we require for scholarship. We are very pleased that Sam has accepted a two year deal and we very much look forward to developing him as a player for the future."

Sam will start with SUFC on July 1st. Headteacher Kieran McGrane added: "Sam is a great lad and I am so pleased for him. I am sure that he will approach this opportunity with a professional approach and be successful - it'll also give me a reason to follow the Blades in the future!"

Ponteland High's Kitty Jones skates up to Level 3

This is Ponteland High's Kitty Jones at the top of the podium at Bradford after winning a skating competition.

She scored 20.81, which is really amazing; the girl who came 2nd from East Kilbride scored 19.00.

Kitty is now moving up to level 3 and we are looking forward to her competing at Murrayfield over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Kitty's Mum thanks staff at Ponteland High School for their continued support of Kitty. Well done Kitty and Good Luck at Murrayfield!





EASTER TREASURE HUNT

SATURDAY 15TH APRIL 2017, 11AM AT PONTELAND PARK

(MAIN PARK ENTRANCE NEXT TO WAITROSE)
ALL CHILDREN UP TO 12 YEARS WELCOME, ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA.



ADDITIONAL RESPONSE IN RESPECT OF DISSINGTON GARDEN VILLAGE PLANNING APPLICATION

The Town Council agreed a further response to the Dissington Estate application following the receipt of additional information, mainly relating to the Transport Assessment Addendum.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Town Council approved a payment of £600 to Darras Hall Estate Committee for the upkeep of the bridle path. The Council also agreed to set up a fund of £1,500 towards the cost of purchasing and installing defibrillators, following a request from Ponteland Methodist Church. The letter from the church indicated Ponteland Lions and Ponteland Community Trust were also keen to install similar equipment at other locations in Ponteland. Up to 20% of the total cost would be given to organisations who applied from the fund, subject to all other funding being in place.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS/ASSET REPLACEMENT

It was reported that the project to refurbish the Millennium Bridge in the park had recently been completed. The information sign for Meadowfield Industrial Estate has also been installed. A report was discussed on the asset replacement fund. Funding was available in 2017-18 to replace the Council's tractor. Quotes had been sought and it was agreed to proceed with the lowest price received.

MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN PONTELAND

A report was presented that outlined the number of objections, support and neutral responses that had been logged on the County Council's public access portal in respect of current planning applications relating to the Dissington Estate; the school and leisure complex; Darras Hall school and land to the west of Cheviot View. The Town Council's objections had not been logged on the system in respect of the Dissington and school and leisure applications despite being sent in on February 2nd and 3rd. The concerns of the Town Council had been relayed to NCC and a response has just been received. It was reported that the NCC Strategic Planning Committee would be meeting on March 15th to discuss three major applications for Ponteland, namely Dissington Estate, the school and leisure complex on Callerton Lane and the land to the west of Cheviot View. The Committee reports recommended approval for all three applications despite public consultation objections.

HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

Following a meeting of the Working Party on February 10th there was a recommendation relating to the car park improvements at the back of Merton Way and a request for a contribution from the Town Council towards landscaping costs. The scheme is currently out for public consultation and comments have to be submitted to NCC by April 17th. The Council agreed in principle to provide a contribution of £10,000 subject to sufficient funding being available following the year-end analysis being carried out.

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Council approved two recommendations from the Working Party which met on February 13th. The first was the provision of a compost area within the park and some improvement works to the planters on Merton Way and Thornhill Road. This involved the planters in the middle of the Merton Way shops, the hammerhead beds and the planted wall outside of the toilets being covered in artificial grass with planters on top. It was also agreed to plant an annual dwarf wildflower mix in the higher planters on Thornhill Road.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee had met on February 27th to discuss the letting of the contract for the landscaping project. Out of three companies who had been asked to quote only one quote was received despite the others expressing their interest. In view of the costs involved it was necessary to discuss the phasing of the work with the company. This would include work to the woodland burial area, including the construction of a memorial wall and installation of a columbaria. This would be funded from cemetery reserves. Councillors were reminded that the cemetery was operated at no cost to the ratepayer and that the reserves were ring fenced for improvements to be carried out at the facility. The Council approved the letting of the contract.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Dodd reported on the recent meeting held at County Hall to approve the budget and on the recent planning meeting held to discuss the application for the County Hall site that had been approved. It was noted that the Strategic Planning Committee would meet on March 15th to discuss three major applications relating to Ponteland for Dissington Estate, the school and leisure complex on Callerton Lane and the land to the West of Cheviot View.

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

Plans progressing well for Britain in Bloom and Northumbria in Bloom

Plans are progressing well for the entry into both competitions.

The Town Council will shortly be writing to all businesses and organisations to see if they can get involved in some way, no matter how small a contribution they make. Keeping the frontage of premises clean, tidy and weed free would be a very helpful start to the process.

Plans have also been approved by the council to carry out further improvements to the planters on Merton Way and some additional planting on Thornhill Road.

The Town Council recently hosted a meeting at their offices, where a Britain in Bloom judge attended as well as the Chairman of Northumbria in Bloom and one of the judges for the Northumbria in Bloom entry in Ponteland this year.

A great deal of advice on how to proceed with this first time entry in Britain in Bloom was provided which will be most useful.

The Spring judging for Northumbria in Bloom is on Wednesday April 19th at 10am.

Anyone who is keen to get involved or offer help in any way should contact the Town Council offices by email at enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk or on (01661) 825092.

County council urging electors to register to vote at local elections

Ponteland residents are being urged to ensure they are registered to vote at the upcoming elections for Town and County Councillors.

Northumberland County Council and local Parish and Town Council Elections take place on Thursday May 4th. This is your opportunity to choose who decides, on your behalf, what happens in your area and for the people of Northumberland.

To be able to vote, you must be registered. But if you aren't already, registering to vote is easy - you can do it in just a few minutes at gov.uk/register-to-vote.

You'll need to provide your National Insurance number, your date of birth and your address. But Thursday April 13th is the deadline to register to vote, so don't miss out!

If you have moved house or recently moved into Northumberland, you may not be on the Electoral Register. If you are unclear about whether or not you are on the register email elections@northumberland.gov.uk or call 01670 624811.

Voting by post or proxy

If you can't vote in person you can still have your say with a postal vote or, if this doesn't suit your needs, a proxy vote (where a person you trust votes on your behalf). Go to yourvotematters.co.uk to find out how to apply, or contact Electoral Services via the contact details above to request an application form.

Once you have registered you will receive a polling card which advises you that you either have a postal vote or give the

details of the polling station where you should attend on May 4th.

Make your vote count in this year's local elections. Councillors are there to represent your views and opinions and are a voice for your community. It is therefore important that local residents use their vote to choose the candidate that they think will best represent their interests and those of their community.

See the May issue of Pont News for details on all candidates.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT



REGISTER ONLINE NOW AT WWW.GOV.UK/REGISTER-TO-VOTE

Kumon's **maths and English** study programmes work to improve your child's skills, develop their confidence and inspire a passion for learning.

Contact your local Instructor for a free assessment.

Ponteland Study Centre
Liz Burrin **01661 823273**

**Boost your
child's
confidence**

KUMON

Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.

kumon.co.uk



hb Opticians,
Beauty &
Podiatry



**WE TAKE GREAT
CARE OF YOUR EYES
& THE WAY YOU LOOK**



tel: 01661 820008 | email: info@hb-opticians.co.uk
hb Opticians 29 Broadway, Darras Hall, Ponteland, NE20 9PW.

planit
design

extensions
conversions
new houses

www.planitdesign.uk.com
info@planitdesign.uk.com
call 0845 604 3757

RIBA 
Chartered Architects





**Ponteland's only
centrally located
MOT station**

MOT ★ SERVICING ★ REPAIRS

Call us on 01661 872220
or email info@meadowfieldautocentre.co.uk

 **Meadowfield Industrial Estate**
Ponteland, NE20 9SD 

www.meadowfieldautocentre.co.uk



Strictly Starters

A brand new beginner's dance class starting at
7.15 p.m. on
Wednesday 3rd May in
Ponteland Memorial Hall.



This class will run for an initial 10 week term and is ideal for adults of all ages who want to have an enjoyable hour and a half learning to dance some basic Ballroom and Latin American routines.

Our aim is to make these sessions fun to attend as we give you the opportunity to laugh, learn and exercise both body and mind with like-minded people in a friendly and social environment.



Places will be strictly limited and we apply a first come first served rule, so if you are interested in coming along, or you would like any further details, then please contact us now at strictlystarters@btinternet.com or call us on 07768 596380 to register your place.



Park House children have surprise visitors

*By Julie Summerscales
Manager, Park House Nursery*

After a week of activities learning about fire safety, the children of Park House Nursery received some very surprise visitors.

A crew from Cramlington Fire Station allowed the children to sit in the fire engine, sound the siren, use the hose and look at all the equipment they use whilst putting out a fire. The children were so excited and thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

The private nursery, opened in 1995, is located at Pont Park, Berwick Hill.

Nominations sought for Ponteland Community Partnership

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of Ponteland Community Partnership will be held on Wednesday May 17th at 7pm in Ponteland Town Council Committee Room, Meadowfield Estate, Ponteland.

Nominations for membership of the Executive Council for the posts of Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer are being sought as well as members of the Management Committee.

They should be submitted in writing no later than May 3rd to: Shirley Hill, Hon. Secretary, Ponteland Community Partnership by email at shirley@reevehill.plus.com

We are a group of volunteers all with a strong community spirit who wish to reach out to all residents, working with other local groups, and engage with projects and events for young and old to enhance their quality of life.




ENJOY

'BUONA PASQUA'

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

ENTER OUR RAFFLE WITH THE CHANCE
TO WIN A GIANT EASTER EGG

Open all day every day
www.fratelliponteland.co.uk | 01661 872195
Ristorante Fratelli, Bell Villas, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9BE

Build a brighter future for your child



Kip McGrath's qualified teachers create individual tutoring programmes, using proven Kip McGrath methods.

- ☒ Maths ☒ Reading
- ☒ English ☒ Spelling
- ☒ Comprehension

**Call today
for a FREE
assessment**

Newburn & Westerhope
0191 4355274
 1st Floor - Tynevale Works,
 High Street, Newburn,
 NE15 8LN

Kip McGrath
 EDUCATIONCENTRES
kipmcgrath.co.uk/newburn-and-westerhope

Retiring Mayor will be greatly missed

By Muriel Sobo

The Mayor of Ponteland for the past three years and town councillor for five years before that retires from his duties in May.

Carl Rawlings' calm, thoughtful manner and presence at village events will be greatly missed!

Carl and his wife, Joyce, arrived in Ponteland in 1985 after living at Whitley Bay for five years. But neither of them are Geordies; they both hailed from Cardiff and actually met at school there.

Joyce and Carl followed her father who ended up in the North East. Carl had a number of jobs in the food and drinks industries and Joyce was a civil servant in the Department of Trade and Industry.

After these high powered jobs and much travelling by both they eventually chose the calm of Ponteland and its country feel and are both now enjoying retirement here.

Carl wanted to put something back into the community and chose to become a councillor in 2009. He says that the Mayor's job was varied and demanded



time and understanding!

The work of the Town Council covers many subjects including the park, the children's play areas and the skate park. It also has an input into planning, the environment, highways and is responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery to name some.

The Town Council has a small grants budget and supports projects like Party in the Park, Remembrance Sunday, the rugby club's beer festival, festive lighting and floral displays, to

name some of them.

Carl counts it an honour to serve the community and he has enjoyed the support and collaboration of his colleagues on the council.

So what does he do to amuse himself? He is a commentator for visually impaired persons at the Durham County Cricket matches at Chester-le-Street! Who would have guessed that? He really relishes this activity and does it about ten or 12 times a year on a rota with others.

In fact, Carl is quite a sportsman. He and Joyce are members of Ponteland Golf Club and hope to get back into the swing. Other sports that Carl has enjoyed include cricket, rugby and soccer and latterly he was a season ticket holder at St James' Park.

Carl said he needs to improve his cooking skills but will miss the teamwork with the Town Council and the help and support from staff and councillors. He has very much enjoyed his term in office and feels honoured that he was able to serve Ponteland people.



PONTELAND GOLF CLUB

BEGINNERS & IMPROVERS LESSONS

9th April - 12th May
£25 for 5 lessons

Sundays 10am - 11am
Wednesdays 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Fridays 1pm - 2pm

14th May - 11th June
£25 for 5 lessons

Sundays 10am - 11am

For more information contact Professionals
01661 822 689 ext 2



PONTELAND 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

Ponteland Middle School gymnast gets gold

A Ponteland schoolgirl has overcome a badly broken ankle to win a gold medal at an Edinburgh gymnastics competition.

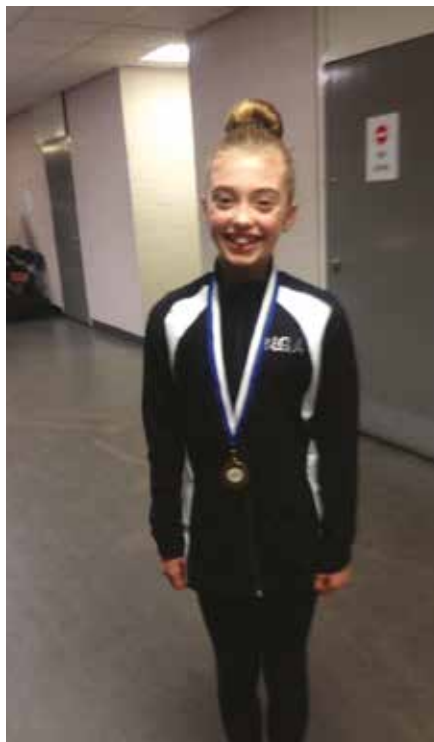
Lucy Goodwin, 13, competed in the "Northern Open Team Gym Qualifier" which took place at Meadowfield Stadium.

Lucy, a Year 8 pupil at Ponteland Middle School, attends Benfield School of Gymnastics and defied the odds as making it as a top gymnast after badly breaking her ankle in 2015.

She spent much of 2016 living on the remote island of St Helena, where there were no dance schools to attend or any training facilities to practice.

Lucy, who lives with parents William and Jessica and siblings William, Lilly and Alice at The Oval, Woolsington, returned to the UK last year determined to be the best she could and attends training three times a week.

Jessica said: "Hard work and determination has always been her goal."







TREATMENTS INCLUDE:

| | |
|---|--|
| HARD SKIN THICKENED NAILS FUNGAL TOE NAILS CORNS CRACKED HEELS | VERRUCAE CHILBLAINS FOOT PAIN DIABETIC PATIENTS |
|---|--|

CALL US TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT OR VISIT US IN STORE








bringing
lawns
to life

Prices
from just
£15*
 per treatment

We already look after **over 1 million, happy, healthy lawns**, and we'd love to look after yours too!

So give us a try - we're cheaper than D.I.Y. and our results are far superior.



For your **FREE** lawn analysis, call today:

0191 4886202

*Prices based on a lawn size of up to 40m²

New hall not needed but full refurbishment would be welcome

Last month correspondent John Hague called via the letters page for a new 'top quality 21st century' village hall which could accommodate all the arts. His appeal sparked this response from David Cobb, Chairman of Ponteland Memorial Hall.

John Hague's letter (March 2017 issue 138) calling for a new arts/theatre style village hall to accommodate Ponteland Repertory Society and 'other arts' groups rather ignores the historical reason for the existing Memorial Hall and the sad but simple fact that capital and revenue funding for his proposal would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

The idea for the existing hall was formulated at a public meeting on July 19th 1918 when it was decided that the memorial to those who had lost their lives in World War I would take the form of a public hall:

"A non-sectarian and non-political institute and place of recreation and social intercourse for the inhabitants of Castle Ward within a three-and-a-half mile radius, and all ex-servicemen residing in the area."

This area roughly equates to the current Parish of Ponteland.

The village of Ponteland had a population of around 200 at that time and the committee set up after the public meeting set itself a target of raising £4,000. The 2.5 acres of land which had been designated in the Darras Hall Trust Deed for public buildings was purchased in the name of the Trustees for £550, half of which came from a single donation by Mr W Stephenson.

Funds for the hall were raised through donations, whist drives, bazaars, jumble sales and similar activities organised by a group of local ladies who were known as the 'Busy Bees'.

Thanks to their endeavours, the war memorial was unveiled on July 16th 1920 and the hall opened to the public on December 20th 1922. The building cost was £1,946.13s.10d. The total cost, including chairs, piano, china, curtains, playing cards, shrubs, bowling green, lawn mower, roller, tennis courts, gates and pillars came to £4,197.4s.

The hall became the focal point for the village but despite extensive use including Saturday night dances throughout the war it was not debt free until 1945. A new kitchen and cloakroom were added in 1947.



During the 1950s and 1960s, the development of Darras Hall led to an explosion in the population of Ponteland and the hall required extensive alterations to meet the additional needs.

The Committee approved plans for a lounge, upper room with facilities, new cloakrooms, new kitchen, a stage with storage space, a caretaker's house, and agreed to acquire land for a third tennis court. The total cost was £55,000, of which £25,000 was received in grants and donations. The then Rural District Council provided a loan of £25,000. The hall became a registered charity on September 10th 1969.

Since 2000, new kitchens, new windows, new central heating, new toilets, disabled access including a chair lift, and a long list of general improvements have all been undertaken usually funded by grant aid from various charitable sources and the continuing support of Ponteland Town Council.

A public appeal several years ago raised just under £20,000 which enabled the much needed central heating replacement to go ahead. Compare this sum from a population of over 11,000 when in 1922, 200 managed to succeed in generating enough funding to build the hall!

The Memorial Hall is a multi-purpose facility meeting the needs of a wide variety of users and requiring constant changes of setting up and layout, hence the need for a full time resident caretaker. The hall committee works very closely with Ponteland Repertory Society and a recent extension to the stage was grant aided by both Northumberland County Council and Ponteland Town Council with the balance required funded jointly by the hall and Repertory Society.

It is the multi-purpose nature of the hall that enables us to attract over 650 bookings annually which ensure that the hall is not in debt but has only limited reserves.

A new village hall would undoubtedly be a real asset to Ponteland. However if it was to continue to meet all running costs it would have to be multi-purpose rather than designed essentially as an arts centre. The reality is that for less than a quarter of the cost of a new hall, the current complex with its significant local historical and social pedigree, could be updated to a high standard enabling all users needs to be met.

The hall committee is well aware that further improvements are required and with the centenary of the hall due in 2022 hope that a rolling programme can be implemented to protect and improve an asset funded by the local community in 1922. Such a programme requires significant funding and external grant sources tend to offer sums of £10,000 or less.

A new hall would cost anything from £1.5m - £3m. The £4,000 raised in 1922 when adjusted for inflation now equates to £1.796m so the challenge would be similar but probably unrealistic. A quarter of this sum is roughly £450,000 and that would bring the hall complex up to a very good standard for its centenary. The Busy Bees are sadly long gone and new bees let alone busy ones are hard to find! Similarly, major benefactors such as Mr W Stephenson who donated half the £550 land cost, (£12,350 when adjusted for inflation) are possibly out there but difficult to trace.

The war memorial in front of the hall lists the names of those local men killed in both world wars. The Ponteland community of 1919-1922 commemorated those killed by providing a public hall and war memorial. We should match their commitment and ensure that their hall is brought up to a high standard by the 2022 centenary.

Busy Bees, benefactors or anyone just interested in helping to achieve this goal should contact the hall office.






Tri-tech

PLUMBING | HEATING | ELECTRICAL



THE NORTH EAST BOILER SPECIALISTS

Tri-tech services is an independent company specialising in speedy boiler repairs for domestic, commercial and marine customers. We have over 35 years experience of dealing with every conceivable heating system problem meaning that we can have your system up and running in no time.

- 24 hour, 7 days a week service 
- All boiler manufacturers covered 
- Trusted by leading organisations 
- Cost effective, No fix - No fee 
- Qualified - Gas Safe registered 

We are the emergency call-out engineers used by many leading local professional organisations, including:

- Northumbria fire brigade
- Holiday Inn Hotels
- Swallow Hotel Group

Tri-tech are based at Ryton, with excellent links to the A1, therefore we are well placed to provide a responsive service to customers across the North East.

For more information on our range of services please visit our website:
www.tritechservices.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 955 1 955

Emergency: 07971 265977



Fellows House
Elvaston Road
Ryton Village
Gateshead
NE40 3QH

WHERE WILL YOUR NEXT MOVE TAKE YOU?



MAKE THE SMART MOVE WITH THE PROPERTY EXPERTS



SANDERSON YOUNG'S PONTELAND OFFICE, COATES INSTITUTE,
MAIN STREET, PONTELAND

T 01661 823951 | www.sandersonyoung.co.uk