ontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



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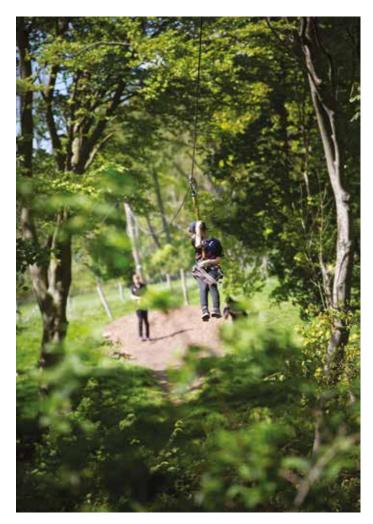
Countryside Festival attracts thousands to Kirkley Hall

Thousands of people from across the region flocked to Kirkley Hall for its annual Countryside Festival.

Attractions included fairground rides, a dog agility show, horse riding display, countryside activities, cattle and sheep displays, plant sales, stalls, woodland walks and access to the Outdoor Adventure Academy with its zip wire, high ropes and climbing wall.

Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens - which boasts over 200 species of animals, reptiles and birds including alpacas, ring tailed lemurs, marmosets, capybara, wallabies, kookaburras, snakes and lizards – was also open during the two day event on May 13th and 14th which an estimated 4,000 people attended.

Photos by The Image Farm













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"A development that
is good for health will
be a better development
and will be more
attractive and pleasant
for people who live,
work or visit it."



Building strong communities and a healthy place to live

It has always been our intention to build something special - a development that is sustainable and designed for the people that will live in it long term.

To achieve this aim we intend to develop new and more effective ways of shaping new neighbourhoods with strong communities that promote health and wellbeing, prevent illness and keep people independent.

Good urban and housing design promotes healthy lifestyles and can help prevent illness. It can also keep older people independent and healthy, supported by the latest technology to live in their own homes rather than in care homes.

New developments also give us the opportunity to radically reshape health and care services, testing what can be achieved with fewer legacy constraints. By keeping people well and providing services in

better, more productive ways, healthy places to live can also contribute to the long term financial sustainability of the NHS.

Many areas already promote health and wellbeing through "placeshaping", including better housing and urban design, and access to welldesigned public spaces and facilities.

Our ambition is to go beyond existing good practice, to develop new and creative approaches that offer the potential to make a substantial contribution to achieving a real channel shift in connecting public health to housing development. It is also to drive closer collaboration between local authorities, planners, developers and the NHS.

Building healthier homes and environments that support independence at all stages of life

We will explore new ways of integrating housing, care and communities to keep people independent and in their own homes. For those who do need support, more innovative residential care facilities may be combined with flexible housing options and step-up or respite

Our priority is tackling unhealthy (and "obesogenic") environments by creating walkable neighbourhoods, delivering radically improved infrastructure for safe active travel and more accessible public transport, and by providing easy access to healthy and affordable food in the local area.

Our intention is to create connected neighbourhoods, strong communities and inclusive public spaces that enable people of all ages and abilities from all backgrounds to mix.

Examples include 'dementia-friendly' design and ensuring that public spaces include features such as public toilets or benches that can make the difference between people being able to get out and about and being

confined to their homes.

We also plan to design healthy workplaces, schools and leisure facilities that make the most of opportunities to encourage physical activity, healthy eating and positive mental health and wellbeing.

We will consider how Dissington Garden Village will contribute to reducing the causes of ill-health, improving health and reducing health inequalities within the village.

This includes the impact on creating a healthy living environment (eg noise levels, air and water quality) as well as how the development supports people in making healthy choices (eg being more physically active, healthy eating and drinking) and what makes these choices easier.



For more information email info@dissingtonestate.co.uk or visit dissingtonestate.co.uk



Newly elected Conservative county council leader hopes to halt green belt developments

Northumberland County
Council is Conservative
controlled for the first
time since the 1974 local
government reorganisation
after the party's stunning
performance at the May local
elections. Chris Jennings met
new Council Leader Peter
Jackson to find out his plans.

The Northumberland Conservatives election manifesto made some bold pledges: stopping the County Hall relocation; halting the march of the developers; scrapping post-16 travel charges; axing development company Arch; a £100m war on potholes; revising the Core Strategy; and creating five local area councils to give communities back the power to make planning decisions.

But what can they actually deliver on key issues for Ponteland like green belt development, which the party has campaigned against for the past few years, and can they stop schemes like the 400-home Banks Property scheme for West Clickemin Farm and the 2,000home Dissington Garden Village which have planning permission and are likely to be called in by the Government?

Coun Jackson said: "Planning applications and the Core Strategy itself was rushed through without taking into account the thousands of comments and objections made by residents. There are obvious flaws in the Core Strategy process. In terms of Ponteland applications they were rushed through weeks and months before the election.

"This is one of the issues where we have to take serious legal advice so at the moment officers are preparing options papers on all of those issues. We haven't had the options papers yet.

"My view is that there is no justification for building anything in existing green belt so our aim is to provide sufficient housing in Northumberland for proven needs while protecting the existing green belt and we will do everything within our power to deliver that, but we have to take into account the legalities of where we are in all the various planning processes.

"Within the next few weeks it will become apparent how far our hands might be tied by the previous Labour administration." The county council has been accused of forcing through unpopular proposals over the past year, including the education reorganisation and major planning applications, despite clear opposition. Pledging a full review of the £57m education and leisure scheme proposed for Ponteland and already given planning approval, Coun Jackson said the new administration would take a much different approach.

"What we are very keen to do through the local area councils is to make sure that local regeneration projects are supported by this council but are also worked up in conjunction with local communities.

"So we are not going to impose on any local community any unwanted developments and we want to see a more even spread of regeneration projects across the county."

He added: "Residents have been feeling disconnected from an autocratic authority over the past four years. We will not be recreating the district councils but giving local councillors the powers and budgets to make local planning decisions; take decisions over transport management with intention to devolve

more powers to them over the next four years.

"They (the local area councils) will meet at times and in local venues that will make them much more open and accessible for residents to attend. They will not have their own specific officials but will be serviced by existing county council officers. They will have powers to take decisions on new developments of up to 100 houses."

The Core Strategy, which suggested more than 26,000 new homes would need to be built in the county by 2031 to meet population growth, is also up for review.

Coun Jackson said: "My view is that the Labour-run County Council has not taken into account the latest population and housing numbers information that has been made available nationally by the Department of Communities and Local Government which show you don't need to build anything on green belt. My hope would be that we could take into account the latest information."

The first pledge in the Northumberland Conservatives manifesto was halting the County Hall move from Morpeth to Ashington. But given building work has already started on what was to be the new headquarters, what will happen?

"The advice we have had so far is that only basic ground works have been completed and it is possible to pause the project at this stage. We will be looking to create either new employment possibilities and/or a higher educational hub that will make the investment in Ashington a major benefit for the future not just of the town but the whole county.

"There are a number of possibilities that I can't detail more than that at the moment because we are still looking at options for the site. We are undertaking an appraisal of the site to come up with the best use for it but strategically it offers a very exciting opportunity and if you are going to invest money in the site you don't just waste £80m by moving 900 jobs from one town to another – you actually need to create new opportunities.

"We are staying in this building in Morpeth. The renovation costs...would be in the region of £7m over a five year period to bring it back into absolute tiptop condition and we have been advised that is a reasonable estimate. Once that work is completed it might be that there is a spare wing on the building because it might be too big for what we need and in that case we would rent it out to a private company to create new jobs."

Another potential problem for the ambitious new Council Leader is the fact that despite gaining 13 seats at last month's election, he still does not have a majority – by virtue of drawing a short straw. This was the way the councillor for the South Blyth ward was elected after two recounts showed a tied vote. The Liberal Democrat won, leaving the Conservatives with 33 of the 67 seats.

So how will the party get its policies through given it is in minority control only?

"No deals have been done with anyone. Independents are split but Tory group ideas have been shared with them and they have been broadly supported and welcomed.

"The next four years will be difficult and challenging because the council is at rock bottom at the moment and saddled with a £1bn debt from the previous Labour administration. But we have taken a lot of confidence from the support we have had from the electorate and we believe prospects are quite bright."

Coun Jackson in the Leader's Office at County Hall. Photo by The Image Farm.

7

New Cabinet unveiled

The new Cabinet was agreed at the first postelection meeting of Northumberland County Council held at County Hall on May 24th.

Coun Peter Jackson was formally elected as Council Leader, with Deputy Leader Coun Wayne Daley – also portfolio holder for Children's Services.

Ponteland West county councillor Veronica Jones is the new Cabinet member for Adult Wellbeing & Health, with her Ponteland North colleague Coun Richard Dodd Business Chair.

The remaining Cabinet members and other positions are:

- · Corporate Services & Cabinet Secretary Coun Nick Oliver
- Economic Development Coun Richard Wearmouth
- Environment & Local Services Coun Glen Sanderson
- · Planning, Housing & Resilience Coun John Riddle
- · Culture, Arts & Leisure Coun Cath Homer
- · Deputy Business Chair Coun Barry Flux
- · Civic Head Coun Anthony Murray
- Deputy Civic Head Coun Jeff Watson.



Improvements underway at Ponteland Medical Group



We want to reassure patients of work underway to improve services following an inspection from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which rated the practice overall as 'requires improvement'.

The CQC team rated the practice as 'good' in three of the five domain areas inspected for providing 'caring', 'effective' and 'well-led' services. The practice was rated as 'requires improvement' in the two remaining areas for providing 'responsive' and 'safe' services:

The CQC noted the following 'good' practice:

Caring

- Patients being treated with compassion, dignity and respect and feeling involved in decisions about their care and treatment
- 99% of patients stating they had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw or spoke to

Effective

- Positive clinical outcomes for patients which were above the local and national average
- Highly-skilled staff with the knowledge and experience to deliver effective care
- Collaborative working with other health professionals to improve quality of care for people with complex needs

Well-led

- A clear leadership structure and vision for the practice which was focussed on quality and patient safety
- Staff feeling well supported by management
- A culture of openness and honesty with the practice proactively seeking feedback from staff and patients to continually improve services

The CQC also noted the following areas for improvement which we are working hard to address:

Responsive

• Improving access to appointments with many patients finding it difficult to make a routine appointment

Safe

• Ensuring safe arrangements for the storing and management of medicines, emergency drugs and vaccinations

Executive GP Dr Hannah Brown said: "We have welcomed the findings of the CQC report and we are committed to improving our services further and addressing some of the issues highlighted.

"We know that many patients have experienced problems recently in trying to contact the practice over the telephone. We openly acknowledge the frustrations and difficulties this has caused and want to reassure our patients that we are actively working to resolve the recent problem with the telephone line.

"Clearly this is not acceptable and is due to a significant problem with our external service provider which we are doing our utmost to urgently address to make sure the issue is permanently fixed and does not reoccur.

"Listening to our patients and learning about their experiences of care and of accessing services is very important to us – it provides invaluable insight on where we need to do better. I would like to actively encourage any of our patients to get involved with our patient participation group so that we can continue to develop our services in line with what our population wants."

If you are a patient and are interested in joining the patient participation group please ask at reception or email your contact details to:

npccomms@northumbria.nhs.uk



Clean sweep for Conservatives in Ponteland at local elections

The Conservative Party cleaned up in Ponteland at the local elections for town and county councillors, taking all 15 seats contested.

In the county council elections Eileen Armstrong took Ponteland East with Stannington, Richard Dodd won Ponteland North, Peter Jackson secured Ponteland South with Heddon and Veronica Jones was elected for Ponteland West.

Ponteland has five new Town Councillors following retirements last month, with Lyle Darwin, Thomas Edwards-Clay, Sufi Ahmed, Alan Hall and Katrina Woodrow all elected.

The new Mayor of Ponteland is Councillor Alan Varley and Deputy Mayor Councillor Christine Greenwell. One of the Ponteland South Town Council seats is vacant and this will be filled by co-option.

Councillor Peter Jackson was elected as the new Leader of Northumberland County Council at the County Council meeting held at County Hall last week. See our exclusive interview with him on pages 6-7.

Full results:

Northumberland County Council election

Ponteland East with Stannington

Eileen Armstrong (The Conservative Party) 1200

Paul Lawrence (Green Party) 92

Chris Matthew (Liberal Democrats) 116

Tony Reid (Labour Party) 134

Ponteland North

Richard Dodd (The Conservative Party) 1380

Philip Pennington (Liberal Democrats) 56

Simon Railton (Labour Party) 137

Ponteland South with Heddon

Andy Avery (Labour Party) 199

Tom Hancock (Liberal Democrats) 138

Peter Jackson (The Conservative Party) 1195

Ponteland West

Party) 1175.

John Hampton (Labour Party) 197 Veronica Jones (The Conservative

Ponteland Town Council election

Ponteland North

Lyle Darwin (The Conservative Party) 916 ELECTED

Richard Dodd (The Conservative Party) 1057 ELECTED

Christine Greenwell (The Conservative Party) 943 ELECTED

Simon Railton (Labour Party) 237

Ponteland East

Susan Johnson (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Christine Caisley (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Thomas Edwards-Clay (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Ponteland South

Sufi Ahmed (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Alan Hall (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Vacancy

Ponteland West

Adam Shanley (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Alan Varley (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

Katrina Woodrow (The Conservative Party) ELECTED UNCONTESTED

General election candidates

The following candidates will stand at the general election on June 8th to become Ponteland's new MP.

Wesley James Foot

Green Party

Fiona Hall

Liberal Democrats

Francis Miles

UKIP

Guy Opperman

The Conservative Party

Stephen Powers

The Labour Party.

The Hexham constituency result in 2015 was:

Guy Opperman (Con) **22,834 (52.7%)**

Liam Carr (Lab)

10,803 (24.9%)

David Nicholson (UKIP) 4,302 (9.9%)

Jeff Reid (Lib Dem) **2,961 (6.8%)**

Lee Williscroft-Ferris (Green) 2,445 (5.6%)

Turnout 71.5%.

Guy Opperman was elected with a majority of 12,031.

Your letters

The Editor Pont News & Views

Continued anger over the loss of the library and an appeal for help with the Britain in Bloom bid in this month's postbag...

we must do something. Doing nothing is not an option otherwise stagnation, plus further running down of our infrastructure and the condition of our area will occur.

Consequently, the only way to increase the 'economic money go round' for such investment in infrastructure is by good, sympathetic development to generate local revenue and to help local businesses. There is no gain without some pain.

If anyone else has a brilliant idea for raising money or a magic wand then I am sure we would all be very grateful to hear it.

Peter Sutcliffe

Middle Drive, Darras Hall

Volunteers needed to boost Britain in Bloom bid

This is big year for Ponteland as it is an entrant in the Britain in Bloom as well as in Northumbria in Bloom.

Ponteland has done very well in Northumbria in Bloom, gaining a gold award for the last five years.

As part of our efforts for Britain in Bloom, Ponteland Town Council is trying to set up a group of volunteers to support and enhance the appearance of Ponteland. Joyce Butcher and myself have just retired from the council but we are helping with the work.

May I encourage anyone who is willing to help to get in touch with the Clerk at the Town Council? The help is not glamorous - weeding and tidying up. It is intended to have work sessions on Saturday mornings from 10am until 12noon, meeting at the Memorial Hall.

These will be held on June 10th and 17th and July 1st and 8th. As the group develops other opportunities to help will occur.

There are, of course, other ways to help through Ponteland Community Partnership tidying up the bridleway and the Friends of Ponteland Park. Everyone who has a garden fronting the road could support our efforts by displays in tubs or pots.

As always with efforts like this, bright ideas and the willingness to see them through will be really welcomed.

Robin Ramsay MBE

The Rise, Darras Hall

No gain without some pain

I was very, very pleased that your first letter in this month's Pont News by David Weissand (May issue) identified the key point regarding the needs of Ponteland.

I quote: "...everyone I speak to expresses concern about local facilities" and "huge pressures on the existing infrastructure and facilities in Ponteland".

So, we all wish to see improvements to parking, shopping areas, infrastructure, schools, leisure centre, inadequate pumping stations, various halls etc. etc.

In order to achieve this Ponteland needs monies and where are we going to get this income from? We all also appreciate that local and national government have little to complete improvements without undertaking major initiatives.

Ponteland Town Council's annual net budget is hardly enough to dramatically impact the infrastructure of Ponteland!

Old library site ideal location for a new library

Having been allowed to fall into a disgraceful state of disrepair, it was apparently considered advisable to desert our beloved library, say goodbye to great staff, and transfer a few of the books to the sports centre.

Enough has been said about the comfortless space allotted to us book lovers I know, yet a further point which occurs is that the chlorine-laden, moist atmosphere which emanates at times from the swimming pool area is surely detrimental to the books.

However, I have an idea what to do with the old library site. Should it be a block of flats? A car park? Well, how about a library? It is an ideal site and would bring back a facility greatly missed by so many residents of Ponteland.

Anne Matthew

Dunsgreen, Ponteland

Town councillors' library protest fell on deaf ears

In the May issue Elinor Jones expressed her disappointment with the relocation of Ponteland library and she asked if councillors had protested about the move.

I can assure Elinor that Ponteland Town Council asked on several occasions for a library to be retained on the site off Thornhill Road.

Despite our requests, Northumberland County Council's previous administration decided to demolish the library building and to clear the site in order to build apartments.

Carl Rawlings

Former Mayor, Ponteland Town Council (retired May)

July issue deadlines: Delivery of the July issue will start on Monday June 26th and be completed by Friday June 30th. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday June 12th. 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 July 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.

What's on...

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. The final Bowls 4 Fun session is being held on Saturday June 3rd from 10.30am until 12.30pm. The club is situated on Darras Road between the Memorial Hall and the tennis club. Visit our website at pontelandbowls.com or contact Allison Storey on (01661) 872010.

Belsay Hall Croquet Club

Sunday June 4th is National Croquet Day and BHCC will be providing everyone with the opportunity to try this fascinating game on that day from 10am to 3pm. Visitors to Belsay Hall can just call in at the croquet lawn or if you are not a member of English Heritage please contact the Club Chairman David Millener on (0191) 236 5374 to arrange access. All equipment will be provided but please wear flat-soled shoes.

Ponteland U3A

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's church hall at 2pm. Our speaker on June 7th is Chris Butterworth and his title 'Hatched, Matched and Dispatched - the Humanist Way'. On July 5th Richard Booth will speak on Underwater Photography. Visitors are welcome, no charge. Visit a3asites.org.uk/Ponteland or call 01661 824953 for more information about us.

Kirklev WI

Kirkley WI meets at Kirkley Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Our guest speakers on the 7th June offer an evening of intrigue as they request their identity remain undisclosed before the meeting. We are promised an interesting and entertaining presentation. There are no further meetings at Kirkley Hall until September 6th as we have our summer outing in July and the usual break in August. Visit kirkleywi.wordpress.com

Party in the Park

This year's Party in the Park is being held on Sunday June 11th from 1.30pm. Full details on page 12.

Ponteland WI

Ponteland WI will meet on Tuesday June 13th at 7pm in the Lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be Christine Rogers with a cookery demonstration.

Callerton Garden and Flower Club

Lucy Addington from History Wardrobe will entertain with 'Fabulous Fifties' at our meeting on Wednesday June 14th at 2pm in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland. This is a special event to celebrate our Pearl Anniversary. Visitors £7 to include tea and cake.

Friends of Kirkley Hall

On Wednesday June 14th at 7pm at Kirkley Hall our talk is Caring for Trees in Northumberland by Barry Robson from Northumberland County Council. He will tell us about monitoring the health of existing trees for disease, safe removal and preferred choice when replanting. £5 charge for nonmembers. To book a place email fokh@gmail.com or ring 07751 974944 or visit friendsofkirkleyhall.org

Ponteland Lions Club

Our next business meeting is at 7.30pm in Merton Hall on Wednesday June 14th and our social event is the 'handover' lunch on June 28th when Geoff Lisle takes over as Club President from Frank Harrington. The charity fund book stall at Waitrose is on Saturday June 24th from 9am to 4pm. For membership details ring 0845 833 9913 or visit our website.

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 June 21st. Contact: pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk or shirley@reevehill.plus.com

Music in the Park

Sunday June 25th from 2pm to 5pm at Ponteland Park. Free musical entertainment from Rendezvous Jazz Band, North Tyneside Steel Band, Ponteland Community Band, The Ringtones and Pete Brown. See advert on p23.

Embroiderers' Guild Ponteland Branch

You are invited to join us Monday June 26th from 2pm to 4pm at the Memorial Hall, Darras Road, when Kay Leech from Cumbria will give a talk on 'Creating Chaotically'. She will also bring along samples of her work. Membership of the branch is open to all and you can join us at a single meeting as a visitor (cost £4).

Line dancing

We meet every Wednesday at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Ponteland. We have lots of laughs, friendship and exercise to music. The cost is £20 for ten sessions. Dancing is at beginner and intermediate level and new dancers are always welcome. Free taster session offered. Contact Rosemary Gray (01661) 822493.

Rotary Club of Ponteland

Rotary Club of Ponteland meet every Tuesday at Ponteland Golf Club. The meetings alternate between lunch times (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) and evenings (2nd and 4th Tuesdays). New people members are very welcome. Contact Alan Hall at alanhalleef@msn.com or on (01661) 860284.

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 Floral Art Club

Ponteland Floral Art Club meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland. There will also be a jewellery stall that evening with items suitable for Christmas gifts.

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.



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PARTY IN THE PARK

This year's Party in the Park is being held on the Saturday June 11th from 1.30pm.

The admission charge will be £1 (children under five free). Entertainment includes: Ponteland Community Band; the Jill Errington Dancing Group; Darras Hall First School Choir; The Rock Choir; a fun fair; target paint ball; climbing wall; Punch & Judy and pony rides.

The event is as usual organised by the Christian Churches together in Ponteland, St. Mary's, St. Mathew's Catholic Church, Ponteland Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

The objective of the event is to create a social gathering for the families and children of Ponteland and to support local charities.





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Flower show celebrates 40 years

By Syd Cowan

Ponteland Parish Flower Show is celebrating 40 years as one of the village's most popular community events.

Started on the instigation of Dr Jack White in 1977, the first show was held on Saturday September 9th 1978.

The show has always been held on the second Saturday in September and the 40th annual show is being held on the same date this year as the very first one – Saturday September 9th.

By way of celebration the voluntary committee is inviting children to design a 40th anniversary card and in cookery there will be a class for a 40th anniversary cake where only the decoration will be judged.

There are also new classes this year, with a vase of Autumn foliage and a vase of ornamental grasses in the flower classes, while the dahlia classes have been simplified to pompom, cactus and decorative, and heathers will be either white or coloured.

In vegetables, a small cucumber class and vase of herbs are introduced. The children's classes are completely revised but still include some baking and "Me and My Pet" is added in photography.

There have only been three chairmen of the voluntary show committee during the event's history, and new volunteers are now being invited to join and ensure the continuation of the show – you will be made most welcome.

Please contact me at syd.cowan@btinternet.com or on (01661) 824459.





Pictures: the late Dick Dodsworth, late Dulcie Dytham, Pamela James and the late Bob Woolley, an early Flower Show committee and judging at last year's show.

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Winning celebrations for Rugby Club 50th anniversary

By Ron Clarke

Ponteland Rugby Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with huge success both on and off the pitch.

The club was promoted back to Durham and Northumberland Division 1, all three senior sides notched-up a clean sweep in cup competitions and the fourth annual Ponteland Beer Festival drew record crowds.

Ponteland Rugby Club President Tony Murphy said: "We are hugely indebted to the support we have received over the years and we hope this continues as the club continues to make gigantic strides both on and off the pitch.

"It is a fitting culmination to our memorable 50th anniversary season to get promotion, a league title and all three senior teams winning Northumberland County trophies. Many of the players in all three teams have come through our successful junior section."

The celebrations continued with a sell-out gala dinner at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle on June 2nd and the publication of a fabulous



commemorative book covering the five decades since the club's foundation in 1967.

With contributions from players, officials and friends of the club from over the years, the book is a great souvenir for the 50th anniversary. The foreword comes from former England international Roger Uttley who famously played in a third team fixture before being snapped up by Gosforth and going on to represent his country.

Top speakers at the Gala Dinner were former Bath and England rugby player David Trick from the 1980s and George McNeill, a former Scottish sprint champion who started as a professional footballer in the 1960s.

The fourth annual Ponteland Beer Festival, extended for the first time to

three days, attracted more than 3,250 people, the biggest attendance to date.

There were more than 100 beers and lagers on offer as well as 40 ciders, wines, Prosecco, soft drinks and the debut of a gin bar from Boutique Bars.

Live music across the three days kicked off on the first evening with the popular Dunston Silver Band followed by the raucous North Star. Ponteland Community Band performed on Saturday afternoon followed by later sessions from debutants Holy Moly and the Crackers and regulars The Richard Kain Band.

The first-ever Sunday family day was supported by folk musicians Alistair Anderson and Northlands, together with the Rock Choir from Ponteland.







Ponteland Community High School Report

Libby crowned judo national champion

Libby Arkless has been crowned the British Schools National Champion in Judo for Years 10 and 11 (under 57kg).

The Year 10 student represented Ponteland High School at the British Judo Association National Championships in Sheffield and came away with the gold medal.

Libby outclassed the other players on every level and her competitive streak and sheer will to win certainly came through on the day.

Her PE teacher and Head of Year Larraine Tilley said: "This is no surprise to me at all. Libby has huge potential and a steely edge that will serve her well in years to come. We are all very proud of her."



Retiring president wishes his successor luck

David Johnson
Ponteland High School
President (2016-17)

As my time in compulsory education draws to a close, so does my stretch as sixth form President at Ponteland High School.

I have found that the past year in this role has been challenging and hard work at times but most of all extremely rewarding.

For me, the key aspects of the role have included liaising with staff from the sixth form leadership team and around the school to voice the thoughts and opinions of the student body, as well as relaying any important information

back to the student body through regular announcements in sixth form assemblies.

I have also led a team of vice-presidents and in turn the sixth form prefects, primarily to act as ambassadors for the school at open events and within the community, for example, in our work with Ponteland Rotary Club.

The new sixth-form President is chosen from year 12 following an election process, so that they can serve in the position throughout year 13. Five candidates from year 12 are currently undergoing this (surprisingly stringent) process, which tests such skills as written communication, public speaking and the ability to cope under pressure.

The process includes writing a letter to the Head of Sixth Form, outlining

what made candidates suitable for the position of President and their ideas should they be elected. Candidates then take part in a 'hustings', where they addressed their peers and staff in a sixth form assembly to convince the audience that they were worthy of their vote.

Just before voting opens to sixth form students and staff, candidates take part in a debate in front of the sixth form student body. Each is then ranked from lowest to highest on how suitable they are for the role. The final stage is an interview with three senior members of staff

I wish all the candidates the greatest of success and although I am sad that my time at Ponteland High School is coming to an end, I look forward to leaving my responsibilities in the capable hands of next year's President.

Girls' rowing team get through to the finals

Five Year 9 students competed in their first regatta for Tyne United Rowing Club at Chester-le-Street after rowing for only eight months.

The five girls - Sophia Riley, Anna Styles, Lucy Cardno, Elizabeth Quigley and Amelia McKenna (cox) competed in a quad. They entered the U14 age group and had to row a 900m course, finishing second by just 100th of a second in a close race and qualified for the finals.

The girls also completed in the doubles, with Sophia Riley and Elizabeth Quigley (pictured) winning their race.

The girls took part in regattas in May at Durham City, Teesside and Wansbeck, to be followed by events at Hexham and Durham in June and Talkiin Tarn and the Junior Championships in Nottingham in July.



Proud Gloria cheers on granddaughter at Wembley final

By Muriel Sobo

There is one very proud grandmother living in Ponteland and basking in the reflected glory of Britain's female footballer of the year.

Gloria Stapylton's granddaughter Lucy Bronze is a very talented footballer who plays for Manchester City's women's team.

In the Women's FA Cup Final at Wembley on May 13th the 25-year-old opened the score with a brilliant header and Man City went on to win with a convincing score of 4-1.

Lucy has been named PFA Women's Player of the Year by her fellow footballers and also scored the winning goal in the World Cup last year for the English team.

Lucy, who was born and brought up in Northumberland, played for local junior teams before moving to Sunderland AFC's Academy and progressing through senior teams to join Manchester City in 2014.

Gloria is bursting with pride and joy at the talent of her granddaughter and went to Wembley to watch the Women's Final. This year Gloria is President of the women's section of Ponteland Bowling Club.





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Golf club sponsorship deal funds new kit

Players at Ponteland Golf Club have been kitted out with new strips as part of a sponsorship deal with local estate agent Sanderson Young. The firm has taken on the club's first platinum sponsorship, providing new team kit for the three main teams as well as the junior team.

The deal also includes a sponsor's golf day, tee sponsorship, weekly golf, meeting rooms and website advertising. Sanderson Young have also given discount to club members on fees.

marketing costs and survey works, along with discount at their Cafe95 in Gosforth.

The club's General Manager Nigel Mills said: "This, together with sponsorship of the 11th Hole, is a major investment by a local long established business. We are very excited and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership."



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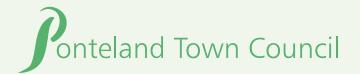
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ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Alan Varley was elected Mayor and Councillor Christine Greenwell was elected as Deputy Mayor for 2017-18.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/ REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Council approved the appointment of Councillors to Committees, Working Parties and representation on various outside bodies.

DATES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2017-18

The Council approved the dates of Town Council meetings to be held on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 6.45pm with public question time.

CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE SOUTH WARD

Following the recent elections the Council is required to fill the current vacancy in the South Ward by co-option. A notice will be displayed on notice boards and on the website. Applications should be sent to the Clerk by June 9th.

NOMINATION TO NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS COUNTY COMMITTEE

The Town Council had been invited to submit a nomination to the NALC Committee to fill a vacancy that had arisen after the recent elections and The Mayor, Councillor Varley was nominated.

PROPOSAL RE ACADEMY STATUS FOR SOME PONTELAND SCHOOLS

The current consultation relating to the proposal to form a mixed Multi Academy Trust for some schools in Ponteland is ongoing. The Town Council had asked the High School questions about the proposals and the response received was circulated for information. It was agreed that a small number of councillors would arrange to meet with the High School head teacher to discuss this in more detail if possible.

REQUEST TO HOLD A MARKET IN PONTELAND PARK

A request had been received from a company asking for permission to use the park for a three day market from Friday June 30th until Sunday July 2nd as their proposed venue was no longer available. This was the first time the Town Council had been asked if the park could be used for a commercial venture but the request was refused due to the impact on park users and nearby residents.

ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Working Party had met on April 24th and a recommendation on memorial trees was discussed. The Council agreed that there would be no further planting of memorial trees in the park and that grass cutting would be carried out in the Pele Tower area. In relation to Britain in Bloom the Council agreed to fund a further green planter on Main Street and also discussed a work schedule for the volunteer committee.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on May 17th.



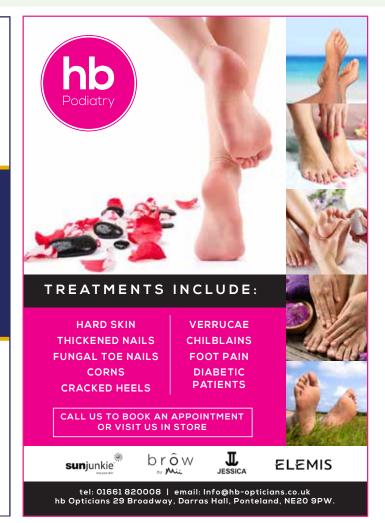
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At the local elections held in May, eleven Conservative Town Councillors were elected for Ponteland (one vacancy). For more information about your local councillors visit the website at ponteland-tc.gov.uk

Christine

Greenwell

(Deputy Mayor)

Station Lodge.

Ponteland.

Station Cottages.

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Katrina

11 The Drev.



Alan Varley (Mayor) 'Tv-Cae'. 6 Elm Road, Ponteland. **NE20 9BS**

01661 821773 a.varley@ponteland-tc.gov.uk







Fratelli raises £1,200 for Alan Shearer Foundation

Staff and customers at Ponteland's Ristorante Fratelli have raised £1,200 for the Alan Shearer Foundation and donated a huge 8kg chocolate Easter egg to the charity.

The fundraising follows the handover of £1,690 to the children's cancer charity TOMA Fund earlier this year.

Alan Shearer is pictured receiving the cheque from staff at Fratelli, who are also seen with the giant egg.



Ponteland Town Council

MUSIC: IN THE PARK

Si fir a

Sunday 25 June from 2pm to 5pm at Ponteland Park

Music from:

Compered by Radio Tyneside

Rendezvous Jazz Band

North Tyneside Steel Band
Ponteland Community Band
The Ringtones

Pete Brown

Bring a picnic and enjoy a fantastic afternoon's outdoor entertainment with friends and family.

In the event of bad weather the event will be cancelled



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