

# pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Building works underway on former library site

Police report growing concern over anti-social behaviour

Ponteland wins sixth Northumbria in Bloom gold award

## New designs revealed for £46m school and leisure scheme





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# Still a growing success after 40 years

**The talents of local gardeners, cooks and other skilled exhibitors were celebrated at the 40th Ponteland Parish Flower Show.**

With the usual choice of well over 100 classes to compete in, the tables at the Memorial Hall were all decked with entries in the fruit and veg, floral and handicrafts categories.

The lounge area had a beautiful display entitled 'Notable Dates' arranged by members of Ponteland Floral Art Club and Callerton Garden and Flower Club.

Some 25 trophies have been donated over the years, and Mayor Alan Varley

made presentations in the place of those donors no longer with us.

Show Chairman Syd Cowan thanked Memorial Hall caretaker Ron Whittington and his wife Kath, who are retiring at the end of October, for their efforts over the last seven years. Girl Guides who sold refreshments in the afternoon were also praised.

Syd said the show had attracted a number of new exhibitors, which bodes well for its future, adding: "The quality of the flower, vegetable and fruit entries demonstrated the skills of the growers, overcoming excesses of rain and overheating that occurred over a very mixed summer weather."

Photos by The Image Farm







# Anti-social behaviour a growing concern

By PC Darren Fisher and PC Ingrid Clayton



**There have been 48 crimes recorded during the period from August 22nd to September 18th for Ponteland and the surrounding area:**

- Theft from person – three
- Theft from motor vehicle – four
- Criminal damage – eight
- Public order – six
- Common assault – eight
- Harassment without fear – three
- Theft other – three
- Theft of motor vehicle – two
- Making off without payment – two
- Theft shoplifting – six
- Burglary dwelling – one
- Threats to damage – one
- Section 47 assault – one.

## School run parking

Please can parents and carers of children attending schools within Ponteland be respectful of where they park their vehicles. As mentioned in the September issue there are a number of car parks that can be used however please can I add an amendment that The Blackbird Inn is not to be used as a public car park and this is for patrons only. Apologies for any confusion caused.

## Speeding

Speeding remains an ongoing concern for police and the residents of the area. We are engaging with our Community Speed Watch volunteers in order to continue regular hi-visibility monitoring of drivers. We are also looking at new strategies in order to encourage drivers to adhere to speed limits within the area. Over the next month you will hopefully see our traffic department working closely with our Speed Watch volunteers.

## Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue within Ponteland and

we are well aware that this is a growing concern for residents. We continue to conduct hi-visibility patrols where possible and we are currently looking at problem solving ideas and a long term plan of how we can resolve this problem - this is all in partnership with other agencies. I will hopefully be able to provide more details over the next few months. I will emphasise if you see or hear anti-social behaviour please report it via the 999 service.

As the dark nights are drawing in please can I remind all residents to keep your homes secure, please ensure doors and windows are locked, leave lights on within your home even when you out and ensure keys or valuables are not on show through windows.

I would encourage residents to look out for each other, their homes and vehicles. If you see or hear anything suspicious please call the police on 101 or 999.

If you have any queries or concerns please email us directly at [Darren.Fisher.2875@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Darren.Fisher.2875@northumbria.pnn.police.uk) or [Ingrid.Clayton.109@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Ingrid.Clayton.109@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

## SCHOOL RUN PARKING

**In the police column in our September issue parents were advised in error to use The Blackbird car park for the school run.**

It is a private facility for the benefit of the venue's own patrons and as for so many local businesses, the availability of car parking for customers is fundamental to its survival. Whilst a number of agreements exist for use of The Blackbird this does not extend to the afternoon school run. Additionally, the presence of delivery wagons poses a risk to schoolchildren congregating there. We are happy to clarify the position.



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Joan Hillman's winning garden



## Competition reveals “genuinely mind blowing” gardens

Green fingered talent in Darras Hall has been praised by the judge of a garden competition run by the Estate Committee.

Paul Travis-Anderson, manager of Ponteland's Dobbies Garden Centre, described the standard of entries as “genuinely mind-blowing” and an indication of just how many amazing gardens there undoubtedly are in Darras Hall.

Awarding winner Joan Hillman, of Greenacres, full marks, he said: “In all my years of judging gardens this is the first time that I have ever awarded a score of 100 per cent. This garden is faultless and truly inspiring. It is testament to the hard work that must go in to it and it was an absolute privilege to be invited to look around it. To be honest, I came away feeling green with envy that a garden could be so impressive on so many levels.”

As sponsors of this year's event, Dobbies provided voucher prizes of £300, £200 and £100 for the three winners to be spent at the garden centre on the outskirts of Ponteland.

Commenting on runner-up Marion Price's garden in Meadowvale Mr Travis-Anderson, who has many



Winner Joan Hillman

years of judging experience, added: “I have never seen so many different plants in a single garden. This garden contains plants that are so unusual and so rare that we do not even have some of them in the garden centre.”

Ann Winter and her sister Mary, also of Meadowvale, took third place for their bog garden and impressive dragonfly-attracting pond which was described as being “delightfully varied and interesting”.

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# Designs revealed for £46m school and leisure facility

**Designs for a new £46m education and leisure facility planned for Ponteland were revealed at a public consultation event.**

Architects say the scheme will boast “bold and intelligent design” to create a single building with three different identities to accommodate a new primary school, high school and leisure facilities for the shared use of students and the wider community.

The high school will be located centrally to enjoy access to new all-weather sport facilities, a sheltered external dining area, rich habitat areas and themed art gardens, table tennis areas, group seating and study terraces.

The primary school will be located towards the southern end of the main site with views to the east.

A ‘community street’ area accessible to all will have a 90m long glazed internal double height area containing a public café, public library and art gallery, as well as Clip n Climb and soft play.

‘The Crescent’ will provide access to the various sport, leisure, performance, exhibition and events spaces, and secure visitor entrance into both the

primary and high schools. Users of the leisure facilities will find a 25m swimming pool and learner pool, fitness suite, Clip n Climb, soft play, a recreation room and public café.

Facilities within the schools that the community could have access to include the sports hall, secondary school hall and primary school hall, post-16 social and study, lecture theatre, and media, music and drama areas.

There will be increased on-site parking with two car parks on opposite sides of the existing public right of way to provide easy access and improved traffic flow.

Just under 100 people attended the five hour consultation event, which was held at the leisure centre on September 7th.

Coun Peter Jackson, leader of Northumberland County Council said he expected a full planning application for the scheme to be submitted within the next month: “The consultation event provided local people with the opportunity to feed their views and

thoughts into the process, and all their comments will be taken into account as part of the planning application.

“Feedback was on the whole very positive, with most respondents agreeing that the location and scale of the proposals is appropriate and also that the development will have a positive impact on Ponteland. There will be further full consultation as part of the planning process.

“Ensuring that there are top quality learning environments for our young people is a very high priority for the council, and this development will provide modern facilities for students for years into the future. We also look forward to providing brand new top quality leisure facilities for use by pupils, the local community and visitors to the area.

“Subject to planning permission the school development is planned to be complete in time for the start of the new term in September 2019 with the leisure elements complete early in 2020.”





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# Girls face race against time to raise funds for hospice

Three of Ponteland High School's new recruits faced a race against time to raise funds for St Oswald's Hospice.

For Year 9 girls Elene Pearson, Lottie Bolam and Anna Hogg all ran in the Junior Great North Run last month, with Elene finishing the 4km race first in the group with a time of 22 min 52 sec.

Whilst they all admitted the actual running was a challenge, they loved the atmosphere and sense of achievement having completed the race. They also appreciated the support of the other athletes taking part - some of whom were fellow high school students.


Headteacher Kieran McGrane said: "We are very fortunate to have brilliant students in our school and it is always fantastic to hear about them doing something that will enrich the lives of others."

"This sense of community spirit and generous nature is wonderful to see in our young people and I am pleased that the girls involved had such a good time doing this event. I hope this will spur them on to other charity minded activities in the future."



Pictured: Lottie Bolam and Elene Pearson

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# Your letters

The Editor  
Pont News & Views



The Chairman of Darras Hall Estate Committee responds to criticism from a correspondent in this month's letters...

## Estate Committee unable to tackle inconsiderate motorists and gardeners

I write in response to Steve Eglon's letter in the September issue of Pont News where he called on Darras Hall Estate Committee to target homeowners who do not maintain their hedges and park on pavements.

Yes Steve, we do fight crusades on behalf of Darras Hall residents. We take issue with matters which fall within our remit as dictated by the Trust Deed. However, the Committee has no jurisdiction over matters not covered by the Trust Deed.

Inconsiderate parking taking place on the road and/or roadside verges fall under the remit of Northumberland County Council and indiscriminate parking on the roads themselves is a matter for the Highways Authority.

Residents should call the Highways Inspector Lee Dundas on (01670) 624418 or the police where an obstruction is being

caused on 101 ext-69569. Overgrown hedges, which create an obstruction or sight line problems, fall into the same category. The Estate Committee is in regular contact with these authorities and often discuss these issues both generally, and sometimes specifically, with the various representatives, but we have to rely on them to take action.

The Committee has a scheduled meeting with the newly elected Leader of the Council Peter Jackson on October 4th when these, and other issues, will be discussed.

Can I suggest that residents email the Estate Office with any matters which they want us to flag up with Councillor Jackson on their behalf. Please send your emails to enquiries@darras-hall.net

**Andrew Mate**

Chairman, Darras Hall Estate Committee

## Thank you for help achieving another Northumbria in Bloom Gold Award

A big thank you to all those who helped us to achieve high ranking Gold standard in Northumberland just below Sedgfield the 'champion' of the North-East small towns.

Let us hope that next year we can do better - and with your help we will. We will be looking for people to "adopt" a display planted for you and then cosset and treasure it to bring it up to perfection.

Are there any takers? If so, let the Town Council know by emailing enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk or telephoning (01661) 825092.

We will, as usual, be looking for volunteers to help with weeding, litter picking and generally tidying up. Keep an eye on Ponteland Town Council's Facebook page to see how you can help.

Here's to another splendid year!

**Robin Ramsay MBE**  
Ponteland in Bloom

**November issue deadlines:** Delivery of the November issue will start on Monday October 30th and be completed by Friday November 3rd. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Monday October 16th. If you are aware of any missed properties please contact the editor at pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk or call (0191) 3408422. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the November issue.

Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views but the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher. The Editor reserves the right to amend any submitted letters for legal or other reasons. All letters submitted should include the writer's name and address.

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# What's on...

## Ponteland Means Business

Ponteland Means Business meets at the Diamond Inn from 8am to 9.30am on the first Tuesday of each month, with future dates of October 3rd, November 7th and December 5th. The purpose of the group is to bring together local businesses and social enterprises to make local communities more sustainable. For more information contact Brian Russell at [brian.russell@profitabilitygroup.co.uk](mailto:brian.russell@profitabilitygroup.co.uk) or on (01661) 872004.

## Ponteland Wildlife Group

Ponteland Wildlife Group will be meeting at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday October 3rd with a talk about 'the magical world of mushrooms' by Ron McBeath. All welcome.

## Ponteland U3A

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church Hall at 2pm. On October 4th David Butler's title is 'History of Gibside' and on November 1st Gordon Henderson will talk on 'Roman Medicine'. Visitors are always welcome; there is no charge. Visit [u3asites.org.uk/Ponteland](http://u3asites.org.uk/Ponteland) or call (01661) 824953.

## Kirkley WI

Kirkley WI meets at Kirkley Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm and guests are always very welcome. There is no guest speaker on October 4th as we will be holding our AGM, when we look forward to welcoming WI adviser Jo Dickson in the Kielder Room. Visit [kirkleywi.wordpress.com](http://kirkleywi.wordpress.com)

## Ponteland Senior Gentlemen's Club

At our meeting at 2.30pm on Monday October 9th in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road, Geraldine Straker will talk about 'Remaking Beamish'.

## North East England Group of the Alpine Garden Society

On Monday October 9th we welcome Matt Topsfield for his talk 'In the footsteps of John Blanchard – narcissus in Spain' at Ponteland Social Club (CIU) on Merton Way at 7.30pm. Visitors £2. Visit [alpinegardensociety.net/groups/North-East-England](http://alpinegardensociety.net/groups/North-East-England) or email [neegroup@agsgroups.org](mailto:neegroup@agsgroups.org) or follow us on Facebook.

## Ponteland WI

Ponteland WI meets in the lounge of Ponteland Memorial Hall at 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Our speakers on October 10th are Mr and Mrs H Gilbert, with a slide presentation and talk on Burma. Visitors are always welcome.

## Ponteland Village WI

On Tuesday October 10th at 7.30pm we are having an evening discovering Northumberland and its ghosts at St Mary's Church Hall. Contact us via email at [pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com](mailto:pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com) or on our Facebook page 'PontelandVillageWI'.

## Callerton Garden & Flower Club

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 11th at 2pm in the Memorial Hall, when Katie Jane Pridmore (AD) of Hazelrigg will be demonstrating 'Let's start at the very beginning'. Visitors welcome; cost £6 to include tea and cake.

## Ponteland Lions Club

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday October 11th in Merton Hall. Visitors welcome. We celebrate the club's charter with an evening meal on Wednesday October 25th. Our charity fund book stall at Waitrose will be on Saturday October 28th from 9am to 4pm. For details ring 0845 833 9913 or visit our website.

## Cancer Research charity concert

World renowned award winning Polish violinist Kate Chruscicka is making her third visit to Ponteland in October. This time she is being accompanied by a double bass player and horn player and supported by singer Pete Brown, who performed at Music in the Park recently. The concert is being held at Ponteland Social Club at 2.30pm on Sunday October 15th and tickets costing £8 can be obtained on the day or by contacting Bruce Grant on (01661) 823606.

## Ponteland Photographic Society

Ponteland Photographic Society meets at 7.30pm on Monday October 16th at Merton Hall with guest speaker Mavis Ord. New members welcome. See [pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk](http://pontelandphotographicsociety.co.uk)

## Ponteland Community Partnership

Come to a meeting and share your ideas, concerns and expectations for improving the quality of life in our community. All welcome. We next meet at Ponteland Town Council offices at 7pm on Wednesday October 18th. Contact: [pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk](http://pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk) or [shirley@reevehill.plus.com](mailto:shirley@reevehill.plus.com)

## Are you safety aware?

Winter Warmer event - Thursday October 19th at Merton Hall from 9.30am to 12noon. Coffee and biscuits provided. The event will include information on keeping safe at home, including internet safety.

## Gala concert

Ponteland Rotary Club's annual gala concert is being held on Sunday October 22nd at 7.30pm at the Britannia Hotel, Newcastle Airport. The host is bass Graeme Danby accompanied by his wife Valerie Reid (mezzo soprano) and friends from the world of opera. For tickets contact Michael Metcalf at [mdmetcalf1@gmail.com](mailto:mdmetcalf1@gmail.com) or on 07831 585803.

## Embroiderer's Guild Ponteland Branch

On Monday October 23rd from 2pm to 4pm at the Memorial Hall on Darras Road we will have a mini workshop offering a fresh look at Trapunto, Italian and English hand quilting. Cost £4. All welcome. Contact (01661) 881395 or [ponteland.eg@btinternet.com](mailto:ponteland.eg@btinternet.com)

## Ponteland Civic Society

A special extra meeting will be held at Ponteland Social Club (Merton Way) on Tuesday October 31st at 7.30pm with an illustrated talk entitled 'A draft local list for Ponteland' by Philip Ham. Buildings of significance, open spaces, and other features which contribute to the character of the town have been proposed. There will be an opportunity to comment on the list and to suggest other items for possible inclusion. No charge for visitors and all are welcome.

## Ponteland writers

A friendly group with mixed writing ability and experience. We meet every Wednesday at Post Box coffee shop from 7pm to 9pm. New members welcome.

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# Rotary holds musical evening


Graeme Danby and Friends are holding an evening of musical entertainment later this month in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Ponteland.

Graeme is famous internationally as a singer but he is also well-known throughout the region for his musical talent, his friendly demeanor and his sharp wit.

The musical extravaganza will see Graeme joined by his wife Valerie Reid (mezzo soprano), Lisa Swayne (soprano), Austin Gunn (tenor), Lydia Newlands (piano), Bradley Creswick (violin) and 12-piece choir Dodici Voce.

Graeme has insisted that he wants a new fresh programme of music for this event and says that it will include songs from the shows, musical theatre and Flanders & Swann.

The event will be held at the Britannia Hotel on Sunday October 22nd at 7.30pm (NOT October 15th as advertised in last month's Pont News). Tickets cost £15. To book email Alan Hall at email [alanhalleef@msn.com](mailto:alanhalleef@msn.com) or call him on **07740 866764**.



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# Building works underway on former library site

Building work on a new luxury apartment scheme will start soon after the demolition of the former Ponteland Library, developers have announced.

Set out over two blocks, Eland Court will feature 25 luxury apartments and penthouses in two individual blocks over three storeys and linked at first and second floor level with a contemporary glazed bridge.

Four of the one-bedroom properties will be sold at a discounted rate in keeping with a Section 106 Agreement and will only be available to purchasers who live in the immediate vicinity.

The blocks will feature a natural colour palette and incorporate a render and batten and board timber facade as well as full height glazing, designed to ensure that the apartments blend seamlessly with adjacent properties.

As the first phase of construction gets underway, Duncan Bowman, Development Director for Ascent Homes,



said: "Ascent Homes takes great pride in the high specification of all its properties and is passionate about providing good quality, well designed homes which complement their surroundings.

"I believe this scheme will allow us to introduce some much needed variety into the housing market in Ponteland with a mix of accommodation types and we are looking forward to seeing construction work progress once the demolition is complete."

Coun Richard Wearmouth, chair of Arch, added: "It is pleasing to see construction

work starting on this prime site which is well located for transport, schools and retail facilities. Eland Court should also help to meet the accommodation requirements of the area where more entry level housing as well as housing offering one or two bedrooms, is needed."

One of the region's leading building contractors, Surgo Construction, has been appointed as the main contractor on the scheme. Demolition of the library is expected to take two weeks, with start on site to follow soon afterwards.

A visual of Eland Court



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# Business networking club relaunches

A Ponteland business club is relaunching as part of a regional networking organisation.

Ponteland Means Business will meet monthly from Tuesday October 3rd in association with the Community Business Clubs funded by Social Enterprise Acumen CIC, an organisation coordinating a number of associated clubs in the North East.

The purpose of the group is to bring together local businesses and social enterprises to make local communities more sustainable.

It is hoped that the group will have a voice in lobbying local politicians, speaking for the business community on local matters, providing a forum for participation in local community projects and helping each other to prosper.

The monthly meetings of Ponteland Means Business are free, have guest speakers and offer informal networking, opportunities to promote your business and involvement in community projects.

They are held at the Diamond Inn from 8am to 9.30am on the first Tuesday of each month, with future dates of November 7th and December 5th.

For more information contact Brian Russell at [brian.russell@profitabilitygroup.co.uk](mailto:brian.russell@profitabilitygroup.co.uk) or on (01661) 872004.



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Pharmacists Jessica Taylor and Trevor Duffield are administering the flu vaccines from mid-September until January, with a no appointment daily walk-in service Monday to Saturday.

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your own home! Jessica is taking appointments to come to your own home to offer the vaccine. Just ring the pharmacy to make an appointment.

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\* £68 pre-authorisation on a debit/credit card is required upon booking to secure the appointment.



# Ponteland Scouts enjoy international jamboree in Denmark

By Lauren Mole and Aoife Lakey

**Ponteland Scouts enjoyed a week of Danish culture at an international jamboree in Sønderborg.**

They joined 40,000 other Scouts from around the world at the 'Spejdernes Lejr' (Scout camp) in July where they took part in a range of activities, including conquering the world's longest bouncy castle obstacle course.

Ponteland Scouts meet weekly to build campfires, pioneer structures and play games, as well as completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Explorer Belt. They

also take part in other large camps such as Gilwell 24 in London and smaller ones in Hawkhurst and the Lake District.

Ponteland Explorers are currently looking for more members, so if you're aged 13 to 17 and interested in any of their activities, contact Explorer Scout Leader Chris Eldridge at [PontExplorers@gmail.com](mailto:PontExplorers@gmail.com) or on 07794 458355.

The Scouts meet every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Ponteland Scout hut in Ponteland Park. Parents are also welcome on October 3rd to learn more, and they can also enjoy a bonfire and introductory evening on November 7th.



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## NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM

The Town Council is delighted to have been awarded another Gold in the Northumbria in Bloom 'small town' category. Former councillors Joyce Butcher and Robin Ramsay, as well as the council's gardening contractor Iain Clough, attended the presentations at the Lancastrian Suite in Gateshead on September 13th. There were also gold awards for Prestwick Park, Ponteland Bowling and Tennis Clubs, The Blackbird Inn and Peel House Apartments and a silver award for Prestwick Allotments. The Town Council wishes to thank everyone who got involved in the efforts for Northumbria and Britain in Bloom including sponsors, organisations, volunteers, contractors and staff. The results for Britain in Bloom are to be announced at a gala dinner to be held in Llandudno on October 27th.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Council supported a suggestion for Remembrance Sunday on November 12th that the parade by the Armed Services, councillors and representatives of the various organisations in Ponteland did not include a return trip from the Memorial Hall to the leisure centre. The request was made as refreshments are served in the Memorial Hall after the service. The Clerk is checking with the Armed Services representatives first before a final decision is taken.

## HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

The Working Party had met on August 15th and the Council agreed to submit three priority schemes and three reserve schemes to the Northumberland County Council Local Transport Plan (LTP) submission for 2018-19. The three priority schemes are:

- Raising of bus stops along the A696 and main bus routes for reasons of accessibility.

- Installation of four street lights on Marian Way, two lights to the link between Middle Drive and Parklands, and new lighting columns in locations including Greenacres, Avondale, Burnside, Dene Park, Callerton Court, Cotehill Drive, Woodend and Eland View as requested by residents.
- New footpaths including kerbing where required on various sections of Eastern Way, The Rise, Errington and Marian Way and Western Way.

The reserve schemes are:

- Re-appropriation of green amenity space at Ashbrooke Drive to create off road parking.
- Localised kerbing at The Rise and Woodside.
- Permission to install a bus shelter at either Middle Drive/ Collingwood Crescent or Broadway beside the United Reformed Church depending on usage data to be supplied.

## ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY

The Working Party, which held a meeting on August 14th, had met with a representative from Ponteland Scouts who requested an extension of the car parking area opposite to the Scout Hut. The Scouts were asked to provide information about various options for surfacing and the matter was deferred until additional detail could be supplied.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Dodd referred to the recent consultation on the school and leisure complex plans which was held at the Leisure Centre on September 7th and reported that the planning application would be out for consultation in the next few weeks.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

Councillors approved a grant of £500 following an application from Ponteland Rotary Club towards the costs of holding a Christmas Market in Merton Way on December 2nd.

*This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on September 12th.*



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## Duck Race event raises £3,500 for charity

More than £3,500 was raised for charity with one of Ponteland Rotary's best ever Duck Race events.

Held in Ponteland Park on Sunday September 3rd, the annual fun day was supported by 6th form students from Ponteland High School, Ponteland Scouts, Ponteland Girls Brigade, Newcastle East Sea Cadets, Ponteland Town Council and Waitrose.

Rotary President Suzanne Marshall said: "We were very lucky with the weather this year and we are convinced that the numbers attending were some of the highest we have achieved. We are very grateful to the families who came along and made the day a huge success. We think that we raised over £3,500 from the event which Rotary will now distribute to charitable causes."

Photo courtesy of Colin Morgan, Ponteland Print

## Volunteers sought for second phase of bridleway revamp

Volunteers are being sought for the second phase of the bridleway revamp project, to spruce up the section of the former railway line from Rotary Way to the airport.

A decision is awaited on a grant application for the scheme, to include the planting of trees and wild flowers and the installation of perch benches and heritage information pedestals.

The first phase of the bridleway project was 'highly commended' at the LOVE Northumberland Awards in July after being nominated for 'Best New Project' - a project less than one year old that promoted improving the environment of the county and created a sense of joint ownership.

Earlier this year more than 50 people, including members of various local groups, helped clear away refuse and cut back overhanging branches in the first section of the bridlepath from Callerton Lane to Rotary Way before planting 75 new trees and wild flowers. Two new heritage interpretation boards were also installed and new hard core laid.

If the grant application is approved work will start on the project on Saturday November 4th. Anyone interested in taking part can register their interest via the Ponteland Community Partnership website at [pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk](http://pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk) to help the Area Countryside Officer plan out the work.



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