

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Extension given to towering
phone mast plan

Shock as popular restaurant
closes for business

School changes course under
new plan of action

Ducks to water bring race day delight

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
EDUCATION CENTRES

kipmcgrath.co.uk/newburn-and-westerhope

newburnandwesterhope@kipmcgrath.co.uk

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

Serving the Ponteland community since 1996.

Belsay Woodland Burials Now Available



- Funeral arrangements for cremation or burial - Religious or Humanist from £2650 inclusive
- 'Pre-need' funeral and memorial plans from £2899
- 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

fratelli
ristorante • bar • café

**BOOK NOW FOR
CHRISTMAS**

OPEN EVERY DAY

VIEW OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.fratelliponteland.co.uk



Left, Toby Craig and Noel Wilson, both 10, from Ponteland

Soar-away success sees annual duck race hit the heights

Birds of a feather flocked together when hundreds of people turned out to watch a contest that was both plastic and fantastic.

They came in force for the 2019 Ponteland Rotary Annual Duck Race, which raised £2,000 for good causes.

Dozens of competitors swarmed to Ponteland Park to float their yellow-coloured toy plastic ducks downstream on the River Pont on Sunday, September 1.

A full race programme was complemented by youngsters joining in the fun by sailing their home-made boats on the water.

Other activities included a bouncy slide, ball-in-a-bucket, face painting, a children's tombola, a 'trap the rat' challenge, and a shuttlecock game.

Event organiser and Rotary Club of Ponteland president Alan Hall said: "It is a big team effort to mount the Duck Race.

"However, when families come along and you see the looks of excitement on the children's faces, then it makes it all worthwhile.

"A recent new edition to the Duck Race was the opportunity for children aged five to 13 to make their own boats. This is proving more and more popular each year.

"There is a prize for best boat design and a prize for the winner when the boats are raced down the River Pont. Both prizes were presented by Ponteland Mayor, Alan Varley."

The event was made possible through the support of Ponteland Town Council, and help was also given by the Sea Cadets, Girls' Brigade, Ponteland Scouts and pupils from Ponteland High School.

The race, one of the main fundraising events for the Rotary Club of Ponteland, also saw a parade of stands and displays which kept visitors entertained.

Photos by Barry Pells



Left to right, Sea Cadet Katelyn Hordon, 13, Aidan Sewell, 12, Amy Blackley, 21, and Laura Blackley, 16



Riley Scope-Wilson, seven, from Ponteland, with his boat



Householders warned to watch for burglars



By PC Lee Davison, Ponteland Neighbourhood Officer

Late summer has seen several attempted burglaries to homes on the outskirts of Ponteland and Darras Hall.

We have received reports of offenders attempting to force locks or prise doors.

These would-be thieves have been thwarted by effective security measures, or disturbed while attempting to carry out the crime.

Unfortunately, the outlying Stamfordham and Capheaton areas have also been targeted, with outbuildings and sheds broken into, resulting in the theft of high value tools.

To deter criminals, property owners should ensure they regularly take time to review security measures, to identify vulnerable areas.

They should consider improving security lighting, and ensure locks are fitted to all doors and windows.

Crystal clear crime prevention advice can be found on the Northumbria Police website at beta.northumbria.police.uk

Motorists must be more considerate when parking

We receive regular complaints regarding the issue of inconsiderate parking in and around Ponteland.

The finger of blame is pointed at residents, builders and trade vehicles, and drivers parking at drop-off or pick-up points for the school run.

Police advice is for motorists to always park with due consideration for other road users and pedestrians.

Many may have noticed that Northumberland County Council has Civil Enforcement Officers patrolling known areas of concern.

Any contravention of restricted yellow lines, be they double or single, is a matter for the council's enforcement team, with police dealing with obstructions to highways.

For it to be an offence, a person must be caused obstruction, and, should the obstruction be present on police attendance, appropriate action will be taken.

Blue Badge holders also have a responsibility to park with consideration.

Clampdown on speeding drivers gets results

Community Speedwatch Volunteers are continuing their good community work.

They have been out on 10 deployment dates in recent weeks, covering sites in Ponteland, Prestwick and Belsay.

In all, 117 vehicles have been recorded speeding, resulting in 101 warning letters for registered keepers of vehicles.

This adds to the 77 incidents of vehicles speeding in the area in the previous month, which resulted in 69 warning letters.

Messaging service

NP Alerts is a free messaging service by Northumbria Police for the communities it serves.

By signing up to NP Alerts, residents can decide how they are kept informed about issues that matter most.

Registering is free and, once done, the messages people want to receive can be chosen via email, text or voice message.

Sign-up is at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/307455233884271#/signup>

Contact a member of East Tynedale Neighbourhood Team:
prudhoe.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

Direct order needed for Remembrance Sunday wreaths

Ponteland groups and individuals wanting to lay wreaths at the War Memorial on Sunday November 10 need to order them directly from the Royal British Legion.

For the past 25 years Major Keith Hotchkiss has organised the ordering and collection of poppies and wreaths in the Ponteland area.

But he stepped down from the voluntary position earlier this year and, despite a British Legion appeal for a new organiser or organisers, no one has yet come forward to take on the role.

Poppies will be available to purchase in the area, but wreaths need to be ordered from the British Legion. Go to

britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/wreaths

Ponteland Town Council will order a small number of wreaths which can be paid for and collected from the Memorial Hall on the morning of the parade, but is stressing that individuals and groups should order directly by the third week of October.

Any organisation or individual is welcome to join the parade and lay a wreath. The parade will leave the Leisure Centre at 10.40am on Sunday, November 10, arriving at the War Memorial on Darras Road in good time for the two minutes' silence at 11am.

The parade returns to the Leisure Centre afterwards and everyone is invited to

refreshments in the Memorial Hall after the event.

For more information on the parade contact Ponteland Town Council at enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk or (01661) 825092.



Consultation extension to mobile phone mast plan

A public consultation over a plan to build a giant new mobile phone mast on the edge of Ponteland has been extended by a day to empower residents to better give their views.

Council chiefs in Ponteland have secured a 24-hour extension over a scheme which could see a towering 20m-high structure constructed on land at Holystone Ltd.

Plans show it will stand 12m above trees at the site of an existing 15m-tall mast, off the A696 in the Ponteland East and Stannington ward, near Newcastle Airport.

Last month, Reading-based Mobile Broadband Network Limited (MBNL), a joint venture between mobile networks Three and EE, lodged its planning application with Northumberland County Council (NCC).

It wants to erect the mast on their behalf to bring advanced 5G coverage, as well as improved 3G and 4G, to the airport, its hotels and the surrounding area.

The monopole will support six antenna apertures, three 600mm dishes and one 300m dish, which will be relocated from the existing structure.

There will also be eight electronics cabinets installed at ground level, and ancillary works carried out, all within a new secure compound.

On Tuesday, September 17, Ponteland Town Council's (PTC) planning committee agreed to ask NCC to extend the 28-day public consultation by a day, to October 1.

This was to enable PTC to contact residents it believes have not been consulted, before sending its submission to NCC.

In supplementary information supplied to NNC, applicant Nick Allan, of Surrey-based Walden Telecom, on behalf of MBNL, states the 20m installation is "acceptable at this location".

His written submission adds: "As the application site is remote in relation to residential properties, it is considered that the upgrading of this existing and established telecommunications site is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on views and the visual amenity of the local area.

"Given the level of natural screening at this location, and the provision of new cutting-edge technology, it is considered that the upgrading of this established telecommunications site offers the optimum solution in terms of both town planning and network requirements.

"For operational reasons, it is imperative that the antennas sit above the tree cover and therefore network signals are not obscured or blocked.

"It is considered that the proposed, taller, installation will, over time, become an accepted feature within the local environment, as is the case with the existing installation, and will not have a significant negative impact on the visual amenity of the area."

The current installation sits adjacent to mature tree cover, which partly screens it and covers all the ground-based equipment.



The existing phone mast could be replaced by a 20m-high tower

GAROLLA
ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS
THERMALLY INSULATED ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

Great For:
Space Saving
Kerb Appeal
Ease of Use
0800 468 1982

Garolla can save a lot of space inside your garage. Rolls up vertically into a box. Takes only 8 inches of headroom! Opens vertically so you can park up close to the door. Remotely open/close the garage even from inside your car.

Acoustic & Thermal Insulation
Brush Sealed Rails
Pay on Completion
Two Remote Controls
18 Colours Available

Free Disposal of Old Door!

LIMITED OFFER - was £1354
NOW ONLY £895 INC. VAT & FULL FITTING
MADE TO MEASURE, CALL US NOW!

0191 394 0076 07537 149 128
Phone Lines Open 7 Days a Week

- Offer valid for openings up to 2.6m wide & inc. 2 Remote Keys, 55mm White slats, Internal manual Override -

Canal barriers victory for campaigning father

A Ponteland dad has welcomed the installation of safety barriers at a Manchester canal where his student son lost his life last year.

Nick Pope has now called for better safety measures at other potential danger spots around the country after his successful awareness campaign.

He said it was a "remarkable achievement" that an initiative he helped launch after 19-year-old Charlie Pope's death had led to significant change.

Council chiefs in Manchester have now installed metal barriers at a stretch of the Rochdale Canal where the teenager perished.

An independent review, which confirmed 28 water-



Part of the newly installed canal safety barriers in Manchester

related deaths in the city's centre in the previous 11 years, had proposed implementing a string of safety changes.

Mr Pope, the managing director of a wastewater treatment company, said he hoped the change in direction around safety

in Manchester may be extended to other potential danger locations.

He said: "We are delighted that what we set out to achieve has been done, but of course it is bittersweet.

"It seems to have changed the mindset a little of people in authority, who now seem more committed around safety and are looking at it with fresh eyes.

"If this swells out to other cities that have issues around student safety, such as York and Durham, then that will be good.

"Charlie was on a night out with friends - I hope people

starting at university at this time of year will stay safe and look out for each other."

Almost 100,000 people had called for safety action after Mr Pope helped to establish the #makecharliethelast campaign, an initiative which put the spotlight on student wellbeing in Manchester.

Charlie died on a night out with friends from the University of Manchester, his body being found in the canal on March 2, 2018.

Coroner Nigel Meadows ruled the death of the first-year student, who was studying economics with philosophy, was accidental.

THE JEWELLERS GUILD *Jewellery by Design*

Lovingly made in our own local workshop

Sanderson Arcade, Morpeth - 01670 518 000
Manor Walks Shopping Centre, Cramlington - 01670 712 277

Design & Restyle • Valuations • Repairs • Luxury pre-owned watches

Handmade in Morpeth

Beautifully designed & skilfully hand crafted by our in house Goldsmith

www.thejewellersguild.co.uk
Follow us on Facebook



Left to right, Daisy, Andria, Joe, Nick and Charlie Pope

Shock as popular eatery shuts down

A much-loved Ponteland restaurant has suddenly stopped trading, with bosses saying they want to focus their business on a second outlet in Jesmond.

The surprise closure of Branches, which opened in Brewery Lane in 2015, has left its clientele devastated.

Hundreds of customers took to social media to express their disappointment at a move confirmed by the business on its Facebook page and website.

Others questioned why the Ponteland eatery, which they claimed was often busy, should close at a time when managers admitted to looking to open outlets elsewhere.

In a statement on both digital platforms, Branches said: "It is with a heavy heart that we have to inform all our customers that Branches Ponteland has closed its doors permanently.

"Over the past 4 years we have aimed

to provide you with the finest high quality food and top class service for which we have enjoyed every second.

"The decision to close Branches Ponteland has not been an easy one, however, we have decided to focus on building Branches Jesmond and to hopefully look at expanding into new locations in the near future."

It added: "We appreciate this may cause some disappointment, especially to our local customers, but would like to assure

you that you will receive the same high standard of food and service at Branches Jesmond and we look forward to receiving your custom there soon."

On Facebook, diner Clare Baycroft wrote: "Gutted! Such a shame, as it was our favourite restaurant; amazing food, lovely atmosphere and friendly, attentive staff."

And Keith Cazely said: "Absolutely shocked - never anything but great food & super service. Sorry but Jesmond not ideal."



The Branches restaurant in Ponteland

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Fear and greed: the real financial market drivers

By David Lamb, Lamb and Associates

Why do we invest money? Usually because we need to put it somewhere whilst we are not spending it.

But we need to get a return to mitigate the negative impact of inflation over the longer term so many people invest in the stock markets, which usually provide better returns than deposit accounts.

Unfortunately, there are two big factors in human psychology which drive the markets and our investment decisions: fear and greed.

It would be nice to think that those on Banker's Hill make investment decisions based upon economic data and company research, but in reality most are just rolling the dice.

Companies can be massively overvalued, or massively undervalued. It depends upon the sentiment. For example, on March 1st 2017, shares of Snap, the owners of Snapchat, rose by 44% on first day of trading, valuing the company at almost \$30bn, even though in 2016 its losses were \$404m. On January 16th 2019 the company was valued at \$8bn.

The investment industry exploits this fear and greed and focuses consumers' attention on past returns, and making investments seem very complicated. Meanwhile the financial press make millions from advertising financial products.

UK financial planning guru Paul Armson, in his book

'Enough', writes: "Financial journalists want you to be looking for the next new thing. They want you to be unhappy with your returns. They want to be searching for a better investment. Why? So, they can keep advertising more of that stuff at you! All the while raking in millions in advertising revenue."

It is not just professional investors who are prone to make investment decisions based upon fear and greed; the same psychology can also have an influence on the public.

Fear: many people avoid the investment markets and keep all their money on deposit, little realising that their wealth will be eroded by inflation over the longer term. Almost a guaranteed loss.

Greed: potential investors see returns and try and chase them but these are actually past returns which have been and gone and are probably never coming back. They don't think about how much return they actually need to achieve and the risks involved.

How can you break away from this? By using a good financial planner and cash flow modelling, you can get a good indication of how much return you need to achieve your desired lifestyle, without the fear of running out of money.

If you are unlikely to ever run out of money, why take an unnecessary risk to get more, when you could end up with less? All you really need to do over the longer term is to match inflation. This can be achieved simply and cheaply by using low cost passive funds.

But these aren't as exciting as specialist managed funds and so sell less newspapers and magazines...

New opportunities promised as school plots fresh future

A Ponteland school is set for change by switching to primary status and becoming the latest member of a North East education group.

Ponteland Community Middle School (PCMS) has confirmed it will operate as a primary school from September 2020, also opening new nursery provision.

It has also joined Tyne Coast Academy Trust (TCAT), a multi academy trust (MAT) that oversees a number of other North East schools and colleges, as an associate member.

The changes come as the construction of a new high school and junior school in Ponteland, part of a £43m education and leisure improvement scheme, progresses.

Headteacher Caroline Pryer insisted PCMS's move to become a junior school – creating a two tier education system in Ponteland – would bring added learning



stability to children and parents.

She said children would continue to be taught to the end of Year 8, with options to then move into secondary school or take advantage of other education opportunities.

These include joining Newcastle's new NE Futures UTC, a university technical college which teaches health science and IT and is part of TCAT.

Paul Naughton, chair of PCMS - also known as Ponteland Academy - said the school had a unique opportunity to support collegiate partners with a proven programme of continuing professional

development and other educational expertise.

He added: "Ponteland Academy is delighted to be an associate school with TCAT and welcomed by the family of schools and colleges."

Latest unvalidated KS2 SAT results show PCMS achieved a pass rate of 99% in writing, 98% in maths, and 95% in reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The Callerton Lane school is also holding open days for future pupils on October 1, October 9, and October 17, from 10am to 2pm.

MATs are a government-led system of education, designed to improve and sustain standards in schools and colleges.

Pictured l-r: Ponteland Academy Chair Paul Naughton, TCAT officer Les Watson, Dr Caroline Pryer, Christine Smith, of TCAT, TCAT Officer Michael McCarthy; PCMS vice chair Giselle Stewart, and Dr Lindsey Whiterod CBE, chief executive of TCAT



Higgins & Winter Dental Practice

Braces are history.
Move to the future.

➤ Book your FREE smile evaluation now

 invisalign®  MiSmile

(01661) 872979 | higginsandwinter.co.uk | info@higginsandwinter.co.uk

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

OPENING TIMES: Monday 9am - 5.30pm, Tuesday 8am - 8pm, Wednesday 8am - 7pm, Thursday 8am - 8pm, Friday 8am - 4.30pm



Marjorie and David Goodchild,
winners of the cut flower classes

The power of flowers inspires show to fresh heights

Gardeners showed off the fruits of their labours to make the 42nd annual Ponteland Parish Flower Show a stunning success.

They competed across 18 classes, including cut flowers, peas and beans, vegetable collections – and even best apple pie – in a competition which is one of the biggest of its type in the North East.

Participants lifted trophies for handicrafts, wine and spirits, and photography, and there were special classes for children.

Organisers say the one disappointment was the lack of entries in the hanging basket class, where a range of quality prizes were to be had but went unclaimed.

They hope that next year's show will bring fresh interest from residents who enjoy brightening their gardens with baskets.

David Goodchild, chairman of the Flower Show Committee, said: "The show's continued success is down to tremendous teamwork and the enthusiastic involvement of gardeners, craftspeople and home bakers around Ponteland.

"Show benches were well loaded with very strong entries in flowers, especially dahlias and gladioli and a wide range of vegetables which have had a season of mixed weather.

"Some very talented members of the Rainbows and other children delighted visitors with gongs made from socks and showed off their handwriting skills with limericks, some of them made up by the children themselves.

"Every year we are awestruck by the achievements of crafts people – needlecraft, woodwork and art. So many different skills are exhibited and really stretch the knowledge of the judges."

Judges at the show, held at Ponteland Memorial Hall on Saturday, September 14, also expressed delight at the quality of the photography class, where entries continued to improve in number and quality.

Trophies were presented by Alan Varley, the Mayor of Ponteland, who said he was impressed by the very high standard of entries.



Eight-year-old Lucy Shield, from Ponteland, with her trophy for best children's handwriting exhibit



Keith Bissett with his winning leeks. Photos by Paul Norris.

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Resident supported over concerns about 'concrete jungle' in this month's letters...

Building work should be curtailed

In response to the excellent letter from Harry Earp, I too am concerned about the proliferation of concrete across Darras Hall.

Hedges continue to be ripped out and replaced by walls. Trees aren't replaced. I was led to believe the Darras Hall Committee is here to ensure the estate maintains its green appearance.

I am interested to know their take on the loss of hedgerows at homes and what they can do to prevent this happening.

Darren Taylor

Pembroke Drive, Ponteland

November issue deadlines: Delivery of the November issue will start on Thursday October 31st and be completed by Wednesday November 6th. The deadline for all copy and adverts is Thursday October 17th. If you are aware of any missed properties please contact the editor at pontnews@cian-pr.co.uk or call (0191) 5191306. 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.

Urgent need for estate byelaws to be amended

I very much agree with the sentiments expressed by Harry Earp in his letter published in your September issue

I too deplore the onward march of suburbanisation that is slowly but surely destroying the essential character of the Darras Hall Estate.

Landscape continuity along the original distributor roads is being crudely interrupted by a motley assembly of brick slabs, invariably framed with pompous piers supporting barn door style gates or various compilations of metalwork, all woefully at odds with the landscape dominated rural ethos upon which the development was originally based.

There is an urgent need, before it is too late, for the estate byelaws to be amended to outlaw this kind of thing and require frontages to be enclosed simply with tree or hedgerow planting.

John Hague

High View, Ponteland

Winter wonderland supports people with autism

People with autism can take advantage of a special outdoor event at Kielder, which has been specially designed to cater for their needs.

Kielder Winter Wonderland is run every November and December by Northumbrian Water at its Landal Kielder Waterside holiday park.

The company has now worked with the North East Autism Society to turn one of the event's dates - Sunday, November 17 - into a themed 'relaxed day'.

It will see volumes and lighting adjusted and areas created to make a more enjoyable and comfortable occasion for autistic people or those with other additional needs.

There will be performances by the ever-popular 'Beavers', and ample break-out areas will be in place.

In advance, a social story, created in conjunction with North East Autism Society (NEAS), will be available to download and is accessible on site on the day.

NEAS will also deliver awareness training to Northumbrian Water employees and the entertainers.

David Hall, Northumbrian Water's Head of Commercial Strategy and Transformation, said: "This day is being organised because we want everyone to have an opportunity to enjoy Kielder Winter Wonderland.

"We're making sure people feel comfortable coming and going as they please, with special areas and access to sensory equipment that people can use if they just need to take some time out."

Further information is at www.kielderwinterwonderland.com.

BOOST YOUR CHILD'S CONFIDENCE

Kumon's Maths and English Study Programmes work to build your child's confidence and inspire a passion for learning.

Contact your local Kumon Instructor for a free assessment.

Ponteland Study Centre
Liz Burrin **01661 823 273**

— this centre is —
OFSTED REGISTERED



KUMON

Terms and conditions apply. Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.



KIRKLEY CAFE
THORNEYFORD FARM

FIND US ON 

- Barista coffee – speciality teas • Homemade scones and cakes • Hot food, breakfasts, takeaway
- Open Tuesday to Sunday • Free parking and free WiFi

01661 871094

Thorneyford Farm, Kirkley, Ponteland, NE20 0AJ

What's on...

Ponteland Leisure Learning (U3A)

The speaker at the next meeting, on Wednesday October 2nd at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre, Thornhill Road, is Barry Mead, who will talk about 'Archaeology – Rescued from the Sea'. It will be followed by a Faith Tea, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. To find out about all activities, visit u3asites.org/Ponteland or call (01661) 824953.

Kirkley WI

The group, which meets at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Kirkley Hall, holds its annual meeting on October 2nd. Guest speakers return when its informative programme resumes in November. Guests always welcome. Visit kirkleywi@hotmail.com for details.

Ponteland Village WI

An informal and fun harvest supper is on the agenda at a meeting on Tuesday October 8th, at which visitors can try out this friendly and welcoming group. A range of sub-groups include walking, dining out, cycling and a book and film club. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre. Find it on Facebook, Ponteland Village WI, or email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com

Ponteland WI

Members and visitors can enjoy a talk and slideshow titled 'The Customs House' by Ray Spencer at its next meeting, at Merton Hall at 7pm on Tuesday October 8th. Visitors are welcome to the group, which meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

Ponteland Lions Club.

The club's next business meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday October 9th in Merton Hall, Merton Road, and visitors are always welcome. The club plans a social outing later this month, and its October Charity fund bookstall will be at Waitrose on Saturday October 26th from 9am to 4pm, at which members will collect spectacles for recycling. Contact the club on 0845 8339913.

Darras Hall WI

The group's monthly meeting is Monday October 14th at 2pm in Merton Hall, Merton Road, when the speaker will be published author Daisy James, who will explain how to write romantic fiction. Visitors are welcome, with entry at £1, which includes tea and biscuits.

Ponteland Local History Society

At the next meeting, at 7.30pm on Thursday October 17th, at The Parish Centre, Thornhill Road, 'Retail Detail, and Detours: Hidden Features of the North East's High Streets', will be discussed. Visitors are welcome, and entry is £2.

Ageing Well Ponteland

Join the group for a cuppa and a chat, and find out more about staying active, safe and well with advice on the health and social support available for older people. The next meeting is from 9.30am to noon on Thursday October 17th in Merton Hall, Merton Road.

Ponteland Memorial Hall

At 7.30pm on Saturday October 19th, a domino drive will be held in aid of funds for the hall. Tickets, which cost £10 and include a buffet supper, are available from the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2pm to 4pm.

Ponteland Community Partnership

Come to observe a meeting and share your ideas, concerns and expectations for improving the quality of life in the community. All welcome. The next meeting at the Memorial Hall is at 7pm on Wednesday October 23rd (enter via back door). Visit: pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk

Embroiderers Guild

The Ponteland branch meets between 2pm and 4pm on Monday October 28th in Memorial Hall, Darras Road, when members will seek regional competition ideas. Membership of the branch and the Embroiderers Guild is open to all, whatever their level of experience. People can become a member or come to a meeting as a visitor for £4. Further information is from Penny Ford on (01670) 788278 or by emailing penelopeford636@btinternet.com

Ponteland Railway Films

Railway and archive films, on a remembrance theme, will be shown from 3pm to 7.30pm on Saturday November 9th in Ponteland Parish Hall, Thornhill Road.

Ponteland Rotary Christmas Market

This event takes place from 11am to 3pm on Sunday November 24th at the Memorial Hall, Darras Road.

Scottish Country Dancing

Dalton Scottish Country Dancing Class and Bullocksteads SCD Club meets at 7.30pm on Tuesdays in Dalton Village Hall. Come along and enjoy friendly social dancing. All ages and new dancers welcome. A social dance is held each month to live accordion music. Contact Mike on 0781 8271287 or Ruth on (01661) 881654.

Ponteland Methodist Church

Sunday services are held at 10am, including children's activities, and 6.30 pm, and Mondays sees a drop-in café which serves drinks, cakes and scones, from 2pm to 5pm, and homemade soups, from the end of October, between 1pm to 4pm. Newcomers are welcome at all church activities, which include Toddler Thursdays and Saturday

Walkers. Although there is a waiting list for Girls Brigade, there are vacancies for the Boys Brigade. Other groups include carpet bowls, Men's Forum, Women's Focus and Women's Fellowship. For more information contact Ann Cooper on (01661) 824347 or anncooperx@gmail.com.

Ponteland Ukulele Band

This is a friendly group of mixed ability ukulele players who meet on Tuesdays at the town's CIU, Merton Road, from 1pm to 3pm. New members welcome.

Creative Writing Group

Led by a qualified tutor, this class aims to inspire and encourage the writing of poetry and stories through stimulating workshop sessions in a friendly and supportive group. New or experienced writers welcome. It meets on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am in members' homes around Ponteland. Contact Claire at claire276.plus.com or on (01434) 605276.

Ponteland Ladies' Choir

Anyone interested in joining a friendly group of singers with a young, enthusiastic conductor can meet at Ponteland Methodist Church, in Bell Villas, on Mondays from 7.15pm to 9pm in term time. No audition needed. Contact Brenda on (01661) 821704 or Rosie on (01661) 871663.

Ponteland Floral Art Club

The club meets on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Darras Road. There will also be a jewellery stall with items suitable for Christmas gifts.

Pont Badminton Club

Enthusiasts meet every Friday evening between 7.30pm and 9pm at Ponteland Leisure Centre, with adults of all ages assured a warm welcome. Turn up, or call 07986 388822 for more information.

Inner Wheel Club of Ponteland

This group meets the first Tuesday of each month, with speakers, cups of tea and occasional days out. Any lady interested should contact Eleanor Carr on (01661) 871768.

Ponteland Methodist Church Carpet Bowls Club

This friendly club meets on Mondays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and Fridays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Experience not necessary. For further info contact Barbara on (01661) 824652.

Line Dancing

Dancers meet every Wednesday at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Ponteland, offering laughs, friendship and exercise to music, at £20 for 10 sessions. Dancing is at beginner and intermediate level and new dancers are always welcome. A free taster session is offered. Contact Rosemary Gray on (01661) 822493.



Ponteland High School pupils with Kier's site team and Eileen Armstrong, Northumberland councillor for Ponteland East, front, third left.

Students prove top class as they help cement their futures

Ponteland pupils have laid the foundations for better learning by taking time out from their summer holidays to help build their new school.

Six 15 to 17-year-olds completed a week's work experience with construction firm Kier Regional Building at the site of a new £43m secondary and primary school in Callerton Lane.

Kier's project team gave them first-hand experience of life on a construction site, and the youngsters also took part in presentations and workshops on construction and business topics.

As part of Kier's partnership with the British Heart Foundation, the youngsters also received CPR training.

Roddy Graham, Kier Regional Building project manager, said: "We were delighted to welcome the group from Ponteland High School on to site.

"They were a pleasure to have and were all really interested in seeing the progress we are making on their new building and what a career in construction could hold for them.

"Kier places great importance in the development of young people and actively support schools across the country in STEM subjects as well as speaking directly to pupils about the construction industry and ways to enter.

"We are extremely happy to be working with Northumberland County Council and Ponteland High School to further engage pupils in the development of this new state-of-the-art facility."

Student Amy Anderson added: "Whilst being at Kier, I've learnt more about the large variety of jobs within the construction industry.

"It's also made me want to look further into the job of a design manager. This has been a great experience and I'd strongly recommend other people apply to take part."

The new Ponteland High School is part of a multi-million-pound leisure and learning development being constructed by Kier for Northumberland County Council.

The scheme also includes a 420-pupil primary school, community leisure centre, café, library and new fire station.

Cowell's
GARDEN CENTRE
Established 1978

**Your Local,
Family-owned
Garden Centre**

where you will find everything
you need for your garden this
Autumn and the largest
selection of indoor plants
in the North-East.

**SAVE
THE DATE**
Christmas Shopping
Extravaganza.
Wednesday
13th November.

www.cowellsgc.co.uk

Main Road, Woolsington,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 8BW
t: 0191 286 3403 e: info@cowellsgc.co.uk

Ponteland Schools and Leisure

Kier Regional Building Scotland & North East



Dear Resident,

We're now over half way through our Phase 1 programme having just completed week 44 of our programmed 85 weeks for the construction of the Schools, Leisure Centre and Community Crescent Hub. We continue to make good progress with all areas of the Project and are in the final stages of works to the new Fire Station to the southern end of Callerton Lane.

Progress has continued well through the period with overall completion of the steel frame and precast concrete slabs and seating to the pool hall. Construction of the building envelope – roofing, cladding and windows – has progressed well through September. Works to the new Fire Station have progressed well, with progress made to all areas, both internal and out.

The installation of the Steel Frame System (SFS) walls to the perimeter of the Primary School has progressed through September along with the completion of the school roof. Window installation was completed to the Secondary School at the end of the month and has commenced to the Primary School. The installation of all roofs has progressed well with the only roof remaining to commence is to the Pool Hall, which will move forward during October. Installation of the cladding panels has progressed on the Primary School Hall, and the cladders will move from there to the Secondary School sports hall and progressively work north along the Crescent areas in the completion of the cladding works.

The internal works have progressed well during September, with significant progress made with the construction of the internal partitions. Rooms are now advancing within all levels of the Secondary School with the joiners and decorators due to commence towards the end of October. The Mechanical & Electrical Works are progressing to the Secondary School, main Plant Rooms, and the Fire Station.

As we have now commenced our internal fit-out phase, with works progressing to both the Secondary and Primary Schools, the buildings are starting to take on their final form. These works will continue for the remainder of the project, with the various areas progressing to close-out and completion through to hand-over in summer 2020.

What works you will see in the next 4 weeks?

- Complete main Roofing Works to all areas.
- Progress Brickwork to the Secondary School.
- Progress M&E installations to the Secondary School.
- Complete SFS Wall System and Windows to the Primary School.
- Complete lower level floor slab construction to the Primary School.
- Progress Internal Partition Works to the Primary School.
- Progress M&E installations to the Primary School.
- Complete Floor Slab Construction to the North Crescent areas.
- Complete Roofing and Cladding Works to the Fire Station. Complete Building Envelope to the Fire Station.
- Complete internal works to the Fire Station.
- Complete External Works to the Fire Station.

Watch Points through October

- Daily traffic movements in and out of the site
- HGV deliveries with concrete, roofing and cladding materials, M&E services materials, bricks, blocks, metal studs and drywall boards
- Installation of roof and cladding systems
- Crane operations

CSR & Project Quick Facts

We had a visit on 5th September from Guy Opperman MP, and Councillor Wayne Daley, Deputy Leader Northumberland County Council, to review the progress of the works and discuss the project with our team.

At the start of September we completed our largest crane lift for the Project, with the installation of a 23.5m long, 22.5tonne truss within the Pool Hall.

On 20th September we held a Golden Bolt ceremony celebrating the completion of the building superstructure which included representation from all of the project stakeholders – Ponteland High School, Ponteland Primary School, Active Northumberland, and our Client, Northumberland County Council.



If you have any concerns or queries regarding the works, please feel free to contact us:



Roddy Graham
Project Leader
07849 098786



Andy Todhunter
Operations Lead
07773 243081

ksne.ponteland@kier.co.uk



Hi, I'm Brian the Lion
Treat yourself to a new garden building
check out the GCS offers on my website
www.gcslb.co.uk

GCS LEISURE BUILDINGS
GARDEN CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Sales, Delivery & Installation

01670 733 499

cram@gcslb.co.uk

Our sales office is open everyday 10-4 with over 40 buildings to view

Sheds
Garages
Greenhouses
Summerhouses
Playhouses
Log Cabins
BBQ Cabins
Storage & Kennels
Greenhouse Glass
Glazing Rubber
and Accessories



Greenhouse Glass

24" x 18" £3.50

24" x 24" £4.00

Always in stock

we cut to size

Toughened Ordered



This voucher entitles you to:

2 free cups of
Filter Coffee or Tea

in the extremely pleasant
'Cafe Azure' within
Azure Garden Centre

Find us at **Azure Garden Centre**
Station Road, Cramlington, NE23 8BJ

Opposite the Cramlington Ford Garage on the A1172

www.gcs-leisure-buildings.co.uk

Latest news from Ponteland Town Council

War victory celebration on agenda

Councillors discussed their involvement in the VE Day 75 event, which will take place May 8-10 2020, following event suggestions circulated by the Queen's Pageant Master. There have been discussions with the Vicar of St Mary's Church about an event on the afternoon of Friday May 8, and the Council will provide a grant towards refreshments. It is also hoped the church's bells will sound at 7pm that day in a 'ring out for peace'. The Council agreed to write to local pubs and clubs to urge them to take part in the Nation's Toast, a celebration to the heroes of WWII, at 3pm the same day. Their involvement can be registered on the official VE Day 75 website – veday75.org. The Vicar also hopes to incorporate a celebration of commemoration of peace into the usual church service at 10am on Sunday May 10. This would involve reading out the Tribute to the Millions and laying a wreath at the church's wartime memorial. The Council will allocate money from its 2020-21 budget to offer small grants to organisations towards the cost of hosting celebratory parties.

Successful Poppy Project application

Following the recent launch of the Poppy Project by the Council, an application had been received from the 1st Ponteland Girls Brigade, which is seeking funds to host a 1940s-themed afternoon tea party close to November's Remembrance Day. The event aims to recognise the efforts and sacrifices of those involved in WWII, and the Council approved the grant application. Application forms are available by emailing enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk or by phoning (01661) 825092. More information is at: ponteland-tc.gov.uk

Music in the Park

A small working party established to consider the future of the Music in the Park event and to look at other possible events that could fit into Ponteland's calendar, has decided the show should not go on.

However, gratitude was expressed to all those who helped with its organisation over the 10 years it ran. Members reviewed suggestions for other events, and plan to report back in due course.

Highways priorities discussed

The Highways Working Party has discussed the Northumberland Local Transport Plan (LTP) submission for 2020-21, with three priorities identified: a feasibility study around the installation of a pedestrian crossing at North Road, the possible installation of 100m of footpath at Linden Way (subject to a consultation with residents); and a request for a dropped kerb at the bus stop near Glebe Close. A reserve item, for a raised bus stop at Cheviot View near to Dobbies was also agreed.

A bin to be installed

The Environment Working Party has recommended the installation of a bin at Prestwick, near to the seat at the notice board. This was agreed subject to the County Council agreeing to empty it.

Northumberland County Council report

Coun Richard Dodd reported that thought was being given to the redesign of Merton Way car park north. He said the construction of Ponteland's new high school and leisure complex was ahead of schedule and agreed to obtain more information about what would be included in the leisure facilities.

Grant application

The council approved a grant of £6,400 towards Ponteland Memorial Hall's running costs.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on September 11.



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



hb Opticians
Beauty & Podiatry

Free 2nd pair

When you purchase a complete pair of spectacles from our £79 or above range.

Terms and conditions apply. Ask in store.

Tel: 01661 820008

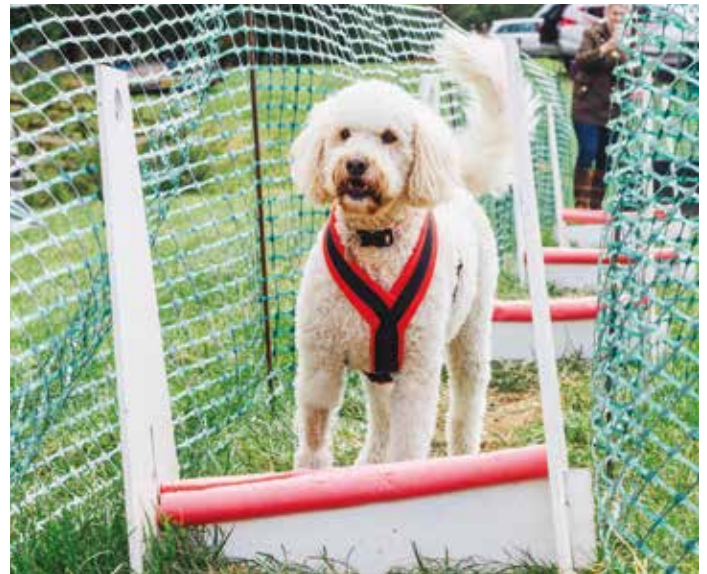
Web: www.hb-opticians.co.uk | Email: info@hb-opticians.co.uk
hb Opticians 29 Broadway, Darras Hall, Ponteland, NE20 9PW



Show champion Amy Oldroyd with one of her huskies



A pedigree chum shows off its rosette



Tests of agility were part of the dog festival

Doggy delight as festival hits the heights

One of Britain's biggest parades of pooches delighted dog lovers when it made Ponteland its home for a day.

Thousands of canines – and over 5,000 visitors – attended the North East Dog Festival at Kirkley Hall on Saturday, September 7.

Dogs tested their agility by racing through hoops, taking part in canicross – a special running challenge – and doing scent work.

They also undertook gundog scurries, kept their natural instincts in check in a temptation alley, and enjoyed fastest recall – and two dog shows were also held.

An event highlight was an exhibition by the East Anglian Staffordshire Bull

Terrier Display Team, which strutted its stuff in the main ring with tricks, tests of obedience and agility.

North East clubs also showed off their skills with a range of activities, including whippet racing and flyball.

And Northumbria Police were on site in the Dogs With Jobs area, alongside organisations and charities which work and train dogs to embark on careers helping handlers.

Rebecca Ashworth-Earle, who co-organised the show with Dawn Oliver-Doyle, said: "This was definitely the doggy social event of the year for pooch lovers.

"Over 5,000 visitors were welcomed through the gates to enjoy a jam packed day of fun in the sun, and they were joined by thousands of dogs of

every shape, colour and size you could imagine.

"There was also the crowning of the festival show champion, Amy Oldroyd and her two huskies, and many owners and dogs walked away with rosettes, prizes and toys and treats a plenty

"The event was a real success. As a team we have worked tirelessly to turn what are normally two empty fields into something magical.

"Dawn and I are forever grateful to our supporters, none more so than our families who worked to help us bring our vision to light.

"We are also very appreciative to our partner sponsor Vets4Pets and the work they have done for this year's festival."

Another festival date will be announced soon at northeastdogfestival.com



Geoff **STEVEN** & Sons
OPTICIANS

Providing advanced eyecare since 1946

Did you know we can now test your
hearing as well as your sight?

We offer a fully independent Audiology service, a **FREE Hearing Assessment** and a **60 day Full Refund Satisfaction Guarantee**.

**FREE
Hearing
Test**

**60 Day Full
Refund
Guarantee**



Our Hearing Care is designed to offer you the best impartial advice and recommendations. Be assured our experienced and highly skilled Audiologist will provide a thorough and professional service plus ongoing support for your future needs.

We provide the very best digital hearing aid systems in the world.

Contact us today on 01661 823 374 or find us at 25 Main Street,
Ponteland to schedule your **FREE HEARING TEST**.

Generous donation funds replacement for smashed Bridleway pedestal

A generous donor has funded a replacement for a valued roadside education pedestal in Ponteland after an appeal in Pont News.

The information board, on Rotary Way, was needlessly smashed to pieces on Sunday, July 7.

Ponteland Community Partnership, which has worked with the local community to revamp the Bridleway over the past four years, was dismayed by the vandalism and appealed for help in our August issue as it did not have the funds to pay for a new pedestal.

But thanks to the generosity of a local businessman who has donated the full amount of £1,249.55 required, the community partnership now has the funds to replace the vandalised pedestal this autumn.

PCP has also received a donation from one of the partnership's committee

members and £250 presented after a successful match at Ponteland Rugby Club.

Alma Dunigan, Chairman of Ponteland Community Partnership, said committee members were overwhelmed by the acts of generosity.

She said: "We were speechless when we found out about what had happened. As you can imagine an immense amount of work over several months by many people had gone into this pedestal project and we were all devastated by the mindless vandalism. But the response to the appeal has restored our faith in human kindness."

Rugby Club President Tony Murphy added: "As a community organisation ourselves, we always look to give back to the very community that provides Ponteland Rugby Club with so much support."

The other four pedestals along the bridleway route from Callerton Lane to

the Airport are being given some extra protection. This work will also be carried out at the same time as the replacement pedestal is installed.

Before the installation work can start this autumn the 733 Squadron Air Cadets have kindly offered to tidy up and prune back the summer growth of vegetation at Rotary Way.



Pictured at the cheque presentation at the Rugby Club are: Rugby Club President Tony Murphy, Alma Dunigan, Chairman of Ponteland Community Partnership, and Rugby Club Vice President David Comeskey.



BATTERY POWER - JOIN THE CORDLESS REVOLUTION



Scots Gap, Morpeth, NE61 4DT - 01670 774205
Garden Machinery, Robotic Mower & Chainsaw Specialists
www.robsonandcowan.co.uk

Bowlers skittle rivals to win league at the double

Lady bowlers are aiming for third time lucky next season after clinching their league title for the second year running.

Ponteland Bowling Club's division one team now have ambitions of hattrick success after excelling at the double in the Collins and Shipley lawn bowling league.

Their triumph – they won 10 of 14 games to claim top spot by 12 points - was among successes celebrated in cross-club end-of-season closing day.

Others commended included Richard Varley, who won the Oubridge Cup, a competition for 11 private county clubs, registering Ponteland's first success since 2008.

And novice Don Burbeck, who joined the club last year after a bowls taster session for beginners, was also hailed for winning three handicap competitions.

Ladies' club president Jean Ramsay said a mix of talent and dedication by all female first team players had led to repeat league success.

She said: "The secret to winning the league for two years running has been dedication and commitment, and no little talent.

"The team played home and away against teams from across Northumberland, and they also gained extra practice by playing games within the club.



Jean Ramsay, president of the ladies' club, holds the league trophy on behalf of the triumphant first division team. Photo - Colin Morgan Photography.

"It would be wonderful to make it three league wins in a row, that's certainly what the team will be trying for."

Founded in 1923, the Darras Road club has a healthy membership of around 150 male and female players – and new recruits are welcome.

Jean added: "We have really good greens, it's a fact that other clubs like to play here. The ladies' teams have quite a wide age range.

"Although we are successful, we are always looking for new, enthusiastic players."

Anyone interested in joining should contact the secretary Dave Kirk by emailing pontelandbowls@gmail.com or visit pontelandbowls.com

Residents asked to keep hedges trim to boost walker safety

A former Ponteland mayor and a current town councillor have joined forces to urge Darras Hall householders to trim back their hedges to allow for safe pedestrian passage.

Peter Cowey, the town's mayor from 2011 to 2014, and South Ward councillor Alan Hall are concerned people on foot can be hindered by foliage that spills over pavements.

Mr Cowey confirmed he tackled the problem during his time in office, meeting with a favourable response from residents he approached to highlight the issue.

Cllr Hall said building work around the estate was also contributing to the problem, with vans sometimes blocking paths.

Mr Cowey said: "At one point, a young



Left, former mayor Peter Cowey, and Cllr Alan Hall



lady with a buggy told me she was unable to walk on the path in some areas.

"I was mayor at the time and put on my council ID and knocked on a couple of houses – I got friendly responses, and later the hedges had been trimmed back.

"People have big gardens and some houses don't have pavements outside them anyway, but some people do still want to walk on that side of the road.

"If I was still on the town council, I'd have no problem going around and letting people know about this problem."

Cllr Hall added: "The Darras Hall estate has its fair number of young couples, and access with buggies and prams is essential.

"There's only a limited number of pavements available, and, as a councillor, I would look for people with hedges to make sure they are not overgrown.

"There's always a fair degree of building work going on, and vans often restrict the pavements by parking over them, which leads to problems.

"If homeowners try to keep their hedgerows under control, then even if a van is there, pedestrians can still get past better."



Kielder Winter Wonderland

Discover Father Christmas, Mrs Christmas
and their festive friends as Kielder forest
transforms into a magical

Winter Wonderland

Book today at
www.kielderwinterwonderland.com

 @KielderWinterWonderland