

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Witnesses sought after burglary
at optician's

Two new business ventures on
the menu for entrepreneur

Super stitcher Olivia raises over
£1,500 in grandad's memory

Community project captures history of hidden gem

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**

Office 2a, Horton Park, Berwick Hill Road, Seaton Burn,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 6BU

Serving the Ponteland community since 1996.

**Kip
McGrath™**
EDUCATIONCENTRES

**ONLINE
TUTORING
NOW AVAILABLE**



Primary - Secondary • Qualified Teachers • Personalised Learning

✓English ✓Maths ✓Reading ✓Spelling ✓Comprehension

Book a **free** online assessment today

Kip McGrath - Newburn and Westerhope

Tel: 0191 4355 274

kipmcgrath.co.uk/newburn-and-westerhope

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

GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

Want the best lawn ever?

SAVE UP TO
25%

All you have to do is sign up to our
Enhanced or Complete programmes
Find out more and visit greenthumb.co.uk

Prices from
£15*
per treatment



Who are GreenThumb:

As pioneers in British lawn care, we are the UK's largest and most recommended provider with millions of treatments taking place across the UK every year. With over 30 years of experience, you can rely on us to provide your lawn with the **very best** care

What we do:

Our lawn care experts apply bespoke, seasonal treatments to keep your lawn continually nourished and weed free. Whatever the size or condition, we ensure that every lawn receives the **love and attention it deserves**

Find out more and visit greenthumb.co.uk/treatments

For a **FREE** lawn analysis call 0191 4886202 or email newcastle@greenthumb.co.uk

*Based on a lawn size up to 40m²

greenthumb.co.uk





Olivia and older sister Amelia with their beloved grandad



Olivia and mum Suzanne with masks she made

Super stitcher Olivia raises over £1,500 in grandad's memory

Super stitcher Olivia McCormack has raised more than £1,500 for a cancer charity by making over 250 face masks.

The nine-year-old wanted to fundraise for Marie Curie in memory of her beloved grandad David Willis, who died aged 72 of mesothelioma last year.

Her mum Suzanne, who was featured in last month's Pont News as one of the ladies making scrub bags for NHS and care staff, let Olivia loose with her sewing machine at home in Western Way, Darras Hall.

And the Darras Hall Primary School pupil has not stopped on the Singer since!

Suzanne said: "My dad passed away in March 2019 in the Marie Curie hospice in Newcastle and Olivia wanted to do something to raise funds for them during this pandemic, as they have been drastically affected.

"The masks were originally made just for close friends and family, but a friend shared pictures on Facebook of the masks Olivia has made and she was then inundated with requests.

"The requests have been made through Facebook and word of mouth. Olivia has made over 250 masks now and they have been

sent to friends in Dublin, London, Manchester and the Midlands.

"We have had to manage the numbers as I have been providing the fabric (which is not easy as the shops are closed and the design needs a Lycra fabric) and covering the postage, and Olivia has also been doing her home schooling.

"Marie Curie UK posted about her on their nationwide Facebook last week, but we had to say she wasn't able to take orders as it was just too much for a little girl to manage by herself from the kitchen!

"Olivia has raised over £1,500 for Marie Curie and counting. We are so proud of her - £20 will provide an hour of nursing care so Olivia has raised enough money to provide 79 hours of nursing for Marie Curie."

Olivia is able to make masks for people in the Ponteland area. To order, email Suzanne at sm.willis75@gmail.com.

As we went to print there had been 82 donations totalling £1,591. To make yours visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/suzanne-mccormack](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/suzanne-mccormack)



Olivia at her mum's sewing machine



Project captures history of hidden gem

The history of a hidden gem in the middle of Darras Hall has been captured in a community project celebrating the protected site.

Known locally as Grasslands, the four hectare Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is well hidden by the surrounding houses on Middle Drive, Eastern Way and Woodlands and known only to the local residents.

Grasslands is one of over 4,100 SSSI sites in England deemed to be internationally important for wildlife. The main botanical interest centres on the gently undulating species-rich grassland which has developed on clay soils and which grades into wetter areas.

The formal conservation designation is given in a form of citation given by Natural England which describes an area that is of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora and important habitats such as grasslands and rare plants of high conservation value.

Ponteland Community Partnership (PCP) was keen to celebrate this local asset by creating an educational pedestal showing information on its history, what rare plants can be seen and how it is cared for.

The private landowner, Darras Hall Estate Committee supported the idea and it wasn't long before this was turned into a project by the Community Partnership last autumn.

An anonymous former Darras Hall resident kindly supported the volunteers and funded the manufacture of the educational information pedestal for Grasslands at the Middle Drive entrance.

The display shows an extract from the original map of Darras Hall, relevant historical documents and examples of the wild flowers from the citation.

Care was taken when selecting the illustrations by Margaret Rebecca Dickinson. Born in Newcastle in 1821, she was an accomplished botanist and a talented Victorian artist who painted in watercolour over 450 plant species of wild flowers. On her death in 1918 she bequeathed her collection of watercolour drawings to the Natural History Society.

The research, development design and co-ordination were undertaken by PCP with the installation managed by Darras Hall Estates Committee and Natural England.

Alma Dunigan, Chairman of Ponteland Community Partnership, said: "We were delighted to receive such a generous donation offered to support our project.

"We wanted to create an information pedestal that tells a story of the original land ownership, its protection in 1910 by the Trust Deed, and how owners valued its status which was also recognised by Natural England.

"Obviously, there was considerable work undertaken by the partnership's volunteers in the research and getting the right balance of heritage and the natural environment.



"Special thanks should go to the Natural History Society and the Hancock Museum for their help in allowing us to use the illustrations of Margaret Rebecca Dickinson, and the land owners Darras Hall Estates Committee who paid for the installation."

Darras Hall Grasslands was first identified in the Darras Hall Trust Deed 1910 as a specific area uniquely positioned in an isolated spot to be used for recreational purposes and has been left relatively undisturbed since. It has been said that the oval shape was to replicate a cricket pitch.

In the mid-1990s estate owners voted overwhelmingly to support the site for nature conservation and informal recreation.

Cover shot: Andrew Pile, Chairman of the Land & Property sub-group of the Darras Hall Estates Committee, with Alma Dunigan of Ponteland Community Partnership.



Haveli owner Sunil Mehra

Two new business ventures on the menu for Darras Hall entrepreneur

A Darras Hall businessman is to open a second restaurant after launching a new online platform which he believes could transform the takeaway market.

Sunil Mehra, whose Indian restaurant Haveli opened on Broadway in 2013, is set to open his second eatery in Newcastle, with a possible third on the cards.

Haveli Newcastle is due to open later this month in Holly Avenue West in Jesmond, and will offer the same cuisine for which the Darras Hall restaurant was awarded a Bib Gourmand in the Michelin Guide - and a late night service which should curry favour with the local student population.

However, it isn't the only new business venture on the menu for Sunil, who has been trialling his new online system Bookslots which he developed in response to Covid-19 to help commercial kitchens operate more efficiently.

Bookslots enables customers to pre-order by booking slots in the same way they would book a supermarket delivery, giving restaurants the information they need to have the right food and staff in place, avoiding wastage, optimising supply and managing surges in demand.

The restaurant programmes the software with the number of meals it has capacity to produce per shift according to its staffing levels and the system removes slots as they are filled. Bookslots also prints food labels, has a home delivery module, a marketing suite, stock control and will also manage reservations for when restaurants are allowed to re-open.

Having closed his Darras Hall restaurant at the start of lockdown, Sunil reopened it at the end of April for pre-ordered



Head Chef Anil Gulati in the kitchen at Haveli Ponteland

takeaways only. Meals for that week sold out in advance within 24 hours. After refining the system and processes, restaurants can now also take orders on demand on the day.

But with restaurants having to practise social distancing measures, the number of kitchen staff has to be reduced and a system which increases efficiency could help outlets cope with Covid-19 restrictions.

Mr Mehra said: "We're down to just three chefs from five chefs and three kitchen porters and still managing 75% of pre-lockdown sales. Takeaway service has always been on demand with spikes but the system helps deal with that.

"Bookslots flattens that curve so that restaurants don't lose customers, unlike other apps where restaurants simply switch off when they get too busy or still take orders and make their customers wait longer than expected for their food. It improves the customer experience by helping ensure food is ready on time."

Bookslots is in the final stage of development and the system is currently being trialled by North East restaurants and pubs including The Blackbird in Ponteland. It is hoped it will soon be widely available to help dormant restaurants open for business again by helping them to operate profitably. Find out more at bookslots.co.uk

Driver snapped at 101mph near airport in speeding crackdown

By PC Phil Oliver, Ponteland Neighbourhood Officer

Rural crime

New initiative Operation Roland has seen the East Tynedale Neighbourhood Police Team run a targeted operation to continue the crackdown on rural crime and cross-border criminals. The operation was run overnight on May 22nd and June 8th and saw officers patrolling key areas and carrying out a number of vehicle and person stops. Local residents are urged to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious to police, to look out for neighbours and to secure any valuable property appropriately, especially in isolated rural areas.

Road safety

Officers based at Ponteland and from the Motor Patrols Unit have been involved in an operation tackling speeding motorists in recent weeks. Results included speeding motorists being referred to speed awareness courses or being issued with fines for speeding or failing to wear a seatbelt, with one driver being summonsed to court for driving in excess of 100mph near the airport.

Officers will be continuing to conduct Speedwatch patrols in the coming weeks and will take robust action in regards to any motorists not adhering to speed limits or committing other traffic offences.

Motorists are being reminded to maintain a safe distance from cyclists sharing the road. Since the start of lockdown, many are now seeing the benefits of cycling and Government guidelines state that persons should utilise cycling as a mode of transport in order to avoid public transport and traffic congestion.

Rule 163 of the Highway Code states overtake only when it is safe and legal to do so. You should give motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car. While there is no specified distance in law, police would recommend giving at least 1.5m, or half a lane, in terms of distance.

Contact the team

At present, the public enquiry desk at the team's base within the Spetchells Centre on Front Street, Prudhoe is closed; the nearest currently open enquiry desks are at Hexham or Bedlington police stations. However, please do not hesitate to contact the team in relation to any community issues at: northernprudhoeptmailbox@northumbria.pnn.police.uk.

Any other issues, you can contact report an incident or provide information via the force website northumbria.police.uk or call 999 or 101 as usual.

You can provide information in relation to crime confidentially to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via the Crimestoppers website.



MAXHIRE
HIRE • SALES • SERVICE

SELF DRIVE
MINI - EXCAVATORS & DUMPERS
TOOL & GARDEN MACHINERY
HIRE
WOODCHIPPER / STUMP GRINDER
SALES & SERVICING
GARDEN EQUIPMENT & SMALL TOOLS
www.maxhire.co.uk Tel: 01670 512793

MH

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 Maths and English Study Centre** for a free assessment.

Ponteland Study Centre
Liz Burren **01661 823273**



Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.

KUMON

Local Plan adoption faces further delay

The long awaited Local Plan for Northumberland faces a further delay due to Covid-19 – and is now not expected to be adopted until next year.

Alongside County Durham, Northumberland is the only local authority in the region not to have finalised its long term blueprint for future development – which councils were ordered to develop by an Act of Parliament way back in 2004. Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton have each produced two.

Reasons behind the lengthy delay include the local government reorganisation in 2009 and the scrapping of the previous Core Strategy by the Conservative administration which took over at County Hall in May 2017.

Its members were unhappy with the level of new housing proposed, including on the green belt. Following a new five year housing land supply report, the number of new homes proposed for 2011 to 2031, across the county, was reduced from 24,320 [with an additional 2,000 houses at Dissington Garden Village near Ponteland] to 18,880.

This scheme and further planned developments of 400 homes at West Clickemin Farm and 178 homes off Callerton Lane have since been abandoned, to the delight of local green belt campaigners.

In November 2017 then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid named and shamed 15 local authorities – including Northumberland County Council – which he felt had not made enough progress with their Local Plans and outlined the possibility of Government intervention.

He ordered NCC to speed up its delivery and threatened to “use the full range of powers” he had to put the Local Plan in place if it didn’t.

Mr Javid then wrote to NCC in March 2018 slamming the “persistent failure over many years...to get a Local Plan in place”. He said he remained concerned that the draft Local Plan would not be adopted until summer 2020 and demanded the process was accelerated by up to three months – a timetable NCC pledged to meet.

NCC says it did get the plan to submission within the agreed timescale

but does not now expect adoption until early next year.

Coun John Riddle, cabinet member responsible for planning, explained why: “Now that the examination of the Local Plan is underway, the timetable is very much in the hands of the Inspector who has been appointed to examine its ‘soundness’.

“Extra hearing sessions have already been held to enable the Inspector to fully explore issues and allow for all parties to be actively involved in Phase 1 of the examination process. Covid-19 will inevitably have an impact on the examination process too.”

He added that Phase 2 hearing sessions could take place in September and, following a further period of public consultation on any modifications, the plan could be adopted before the end of March 2021.

In the absence of the Local Plan, Ponteland has additional protection thanks to its Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in 2017 with 32 planning policies. All planning applications in the parish have to be assessed against it.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Brace yourself for some fiscal pain

By David Lamb, Lamb Financial

Earlier this month the Office for National Statistics revealed that for the first time since I was born (1963) Government debt had reached more than 100% of GDP because of the issues caused by Covid-19.

How can the Chancellor Rishi Sunak start to reduce this debt? The answer must lie in either spending cuts or tax rises. In this month’s article, I am going to consider where potential tax rises could be made.

Income tax: This is the biggest tax contribution and therefore even small rises could potentially make a big difference to reducing the debt, but will Mr Sunak want to put even more strain on taxpayers during a recession?

VAT: The Institute for Fiscal Studies has stated that this is the third largest source of UK tax. Shorter term,

this could be reduced to stimulate spending but longer term, once the impact on demand is less severe, it could increased again.

Stamp duty: This has risen by more than any other tax over the last few years but HMRC data shows that receipts were down in Q1 this year compared to the same period last year and it is unlikely that the Government will be willing to make any changes whilst the property market is in a recovery phase.

Pension tax relief: Rumours that this is about to be reduced start before most budgets. It costs the Government almost £40bn a year and could be reduced for higher rate tax payers but this is unlikely to save much money. It could be reduced to the basic rate, but this may be complex to implement and controversial.

Inheritance tax: Last year an all-party Parliamentary group called for a complete overhaul of the inheritance tax system. This included reducing the rate from 40% to 10% but increasing the number of estates subject to the tax.

The State Pension triple lock: Whilst not a tax rise, replacing the triple lock with a double lock could save the Government a lot of money. According to John Cridland, who provided the Independent Review of the State Pension Age report in March 2017, the current projected expenditure of 7.1% of GDP by 2066/67 could be reduced to 5.9%. The Social Market Foundation also estimated that ending the triple lock could reduce the deficit by around £20bn over the next five years.

Fiscal pain is coming, and we all need to amend our financial planning accordingly.



Witnesses sought after burglary at optician's

Police are appealing for witnesses after a burglary at a Darras Hall optician's.

Thieves stole a batch of designer sunglasses in the raid at HB Opticians

between 10pm and 11.30pm on Monday June 8th, smashing the front door and display cabinets.

Ponteland Neighbourhood Officer PC Phil Oliver said: "The investigation is still ongoing, however we are still appealing

for any witnesses to the incident.

"If anyone has any information, they should contact the officer in charge of the investigation via 2689@northumbria.pnn.police.uk or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."



Established in 1976, NS Security Systems is a local, family run business which serves both domestic and commercial clients.

Installation, servicing, maintenance, repair and upgrade of alarm and CCTV systems.



Trading Standards
Approved

W. **nssecuritysystems.co.uk**
E. **enquiries@nssecuritysystems.co.uk**
T. **01670 732 666 (24 hr)**

**24/7
service**

Installer of the only police approved hybrid alarm system – **Risco LightSYS 2**

Duck Races to go virtual

One of Ponteland's best loved traditional summer events is to go virtual this year.



Organisers of the annual Duck Races, held in Ponteland Park on the first Sunday in September, are currently working on alternative plans given social distancing restrictions banning large gatherings.

John Muir, Incoming President of Ponteland Rotary, said: "We have had to cancel this popular family event which was to take place in early September. Our new plan is a competition to invite schoolchildren to submit boat designs online.

"We are also looking at some 'virtual' Duck Races using YouTube technology. People need to watch out for these plans which we will publicise in the next few weeks."

David Goodchild, Chairman of Ponteland Flower Show, another popular annual event held each September, said the show committee was still

working on plans for this year.

He said: "We are hoping to have a show of some kind though it will probably be rather limited in scope. It very much depends on Government advice on the Memorial Hall opening and on people getting together. We're putting a lot of thought into how we will manage it."

Alan Newton, from the Alpine Garden Society's North East Group, said no decision had yet been made on its autumn show, due to be held at Hexham Mart on September 26th.

But the Party in the Park, which should have been held last month at Ponteland Park, is not being rescheduled for this year and organisers are now concentrating on next year's event.

Children enjoy last year's Duck Races at Ponteland Park.

Husqvarna Automower®

Imagine never having to cut your lawn again....



Robotic Mowing Perfection

- Cuts all types of lawns, leaving a carpet like look and minimises moss
- Manages steep slopes and passages
- Works day and night, rain or shine, giving great results whatever the weather
- No noise, ideal for night time operation or noise sensitive areas
- Frees up valuable time



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



Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Anger at irresponsible dog owners in this month's postbag...

There is no poo fairy

Lockdown has been an incredibly difficult and different time for all of us.

I feel fortunate to live in Ponteland where we have bridle paths and lovely open green spaces to exercise and take in the fresh air. A pity then that a minority do not pay due respect for this bounty.

Prior to lockdown I exercised with my (large) dogs at Bolam Lake and the beach. Recently, I have limited myself to walks in the local area and seen first hand the amount of dog fouling.

Past letters have commented on the mess in the park, but until recently I had not realised the scale of the problem.

I noticed some owners wearing headsets/using mobiles, friends walking and families playing while their dogs meandered unsupervised. One couple I spoke with have a similar view to most of us - why have a dog if you don't take responsibility for it?

Armed with a can of environmentally chalk based pink paint (as used by Forestry Commission) I highlighted dog mess. Most was within 3m of a waste bin, under the trees at the A696 road entrance of, sadly, 'Sally's Walk'.

I can only imagine how many shoes and bike wheels have had to be cleaned of this. A group of teenagers actually thanked me for highlighting the disgusting mess.

With fines of £1,000 for each heap, the local authority has missed out on at least £30,000 revenue, certainly justifying the installation of movable trail cameras such as those used to identify fly tippers.

They retail at about £59.99, use eight AA batteries and come with two memory cards which record time and date. Perhaps a 'name and shame' action is now required?

There is no poo fairy, dog walkers.

Gillian Armstrong
Kirkley Drive, Ponteland

August issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the August issue is Thursday July 16th. Door to door distribution will be from Thursday July 30th to Wednesday August 5th. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the August issue. Please visit ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views for online issues and all updates.

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.

PONTELAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Previously PCMS)

...give them
space to grow!

01661 824853 www.ponteland.academy

Limited places are available from September 2020
in all year groups - from EY to Y6+Y8 - CALL NOW



Heads report ‘really positive’ return to school

Headteachers have reported an “amazing” and “really positive” return to school for the year groups invited back part time as part of the relaxation of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Ponteland Community Middle School opened to Year 6 pupils on June 1st and the five primary schools in the Pele Trust welcomed Reception and Year 1 pupils on June 8th.

Belsay School, Darras Hall Primary School, Heddon St Andrews Primary, Ponteland Primary School and Richard Coates CE Primary School then opened their nurseries on June 15th and allowed Year 6 pupils from June 22nd.

Ponteland High School, also part of the Pele Trust, opened on June 15th, allowing up to a quarter of Y10 and Y12 students on any given day ensuring classes of no more than 15.

Kieran McGrane, Headteacher of Ponteland High School, said: “Our first week back with Y10 and Y12 went incredibly well. It was really positive to welcome our students back and both they and staff enjoyed a return to some normality.

“We have approximately 400 students across Y10 and Y12 therefore are able to invite in around 100 each day; last week 80 per cent of eligible students attended each day, which is very encouraging.

“The Y10 students attend school one day per week (same day each week) and receive 4 x 1 hr lessons in the core subjects. Y12 spend a day per subject so that they will receive two full days per subject before the end of term.

“The biggest issue we have faced is in completing a detailed risk assessment and then putting it into practice with hand washing stations at each entrance, wipes and hand sanitiser in every classroom, additional signage for 2m distancing and a one-way system within school, increased cleaning rotas.

“It is lovely seeing the children and helping them deal with the disappointments, celebrate their tenacity and resilience and, in some way, gain closure for the end of the school year...”

“In addition we have placed staff on a complex rota ensuring that all available staff have some reconnection with school.

“Feedback from staff, students and parents is that they feel as though the situation has been treated very seriously

and have been impressed with our planning and preparation. This has made them feel safe in school and able to concentrate on teaching/learning.

“Everyone has really enjoyed being back in classrooms and actually teaching face-to-face. One Y10 student even said to me ‘this has been brilliant today - school should be like this all the time’.”

Caroline Pryer, Headteacher of Ponteland Community Middle School which had 83 mainly Year 6 pupils return, said they settled back in very quickly. She said: “Looking back on the last few weeks, it has been amazing. A little daunting at first for staff, children and families as we had arranged schedules with military precision to keep everyone safe as possible.

“The children settled almost immediately, following the same timetable as the children at home doing maths, English, mindfulness, outdoor and PE lessons. We have a weekly quiz which includes all Key Stage 3 children and have weekly catch up calls with parents and children keeping families in touch.

“It is lovely seeing the children and helping them deal with the disappointments, celebrate their tenacity and resilience and, in some way, gain closure for the end of the school year. The challenges have been enormous as we respond from one change to another but the staff at PCMS are amazing.”

Mixed response to £1bn ‘catch up’ fund for schools

There was a mixed response to the new £1bn ‘catch up fund’ for schools, which includes £350m to establish a National Tutoring Programme giving schools access to subsidised tutoring sessions and free coaches for disadvantaged pupils.

Welcoming the announcement, Mrs Pryer said: “Lovely to read the news that catch up funding is available as we ‘mind the gap’ in the children's learning.

There are lots of excellent online resources to access and hopefully we can use the funds to employ additional staff to offer even more bespoke interventions.

“We need to concentrate on English and maths and teach these core subjects across the curriculum embedding these skills in other subjects.”

Mr McGrane said he thought some questions needed to be answered about the scheme: “Any additional funding

is always welcome and I do agree with the idea of tutoring as a means to supporting the most vulnerable. However, there are lots of questions that accompany this money.

“Where are all the tutors going to come from? Are they high quality, tried and tested?

When will these sessions take place? Summer, in September after school, during school, or weekends? Will the targeted students want to engage?”

What's on...

Pont News has been missing its What's On guide in recent issues due to the lockdown, but we have reintroduced it this month - albeit with a difference. Local clubs, organisations, churches and events are being held remotely - or 'virtually' as we get used to social distancing. If you have an event or meeting you are holding virtually - or in person meeting social distancing requirements - let us know and we will include in the August What's On guide.

Ponteland U3A

Due to the current situation we cannot meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Parish Centre until it is safe to do so. However, thanks to Zoom we are able to give our monthly talks. It is the intention to give the first talk at 2pm on Wednesday July 1st. For more information please visit u3asites.org.uk/Ponteland or contact (01661) 824953. These talks are available for members and non-members alike. Apologies to those members

who do not have internet access but we can only hope that the situation changes before too long. In the meantime keep safe and well.

Ponteland Rotary

It will take more than this virus outbreak to stop Rotary Ponteland! Not to be beaten by the Government lockdown, Rotarians in Ponteland are holding their meetings online using Zoom technology. Incoming President John Muir said: "Club members have adapted very quickly and online meetings take place every two weeks on a Tuesday morning. It means we can keep the wheels of Rotary still turning and try to work around all the social distancing measures.

Ponteland Methodist Church

Ponteland Methodist Church is closed until further notice, but widely acclaimed YouTube services are available each week. Just search on YouTube for 'Newcastle West Methodist Circuit'. The services are usually available from Saturday night and can be viewed anytime. You can also read our monthly magazine Cornerstone on the church website at ponteland-methodist-church.org.uk. For more information contact anncooperx@gmail.com.

com or to contact the minister, the Rev Jona Sewell, call (01661) 822057.

St Mary's Church

Due to Covid-19, all regular services at St. Mary's and Holy Saviour have ceased. From June 16th, St Mary's Church will be open on Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 1pm and Sunday 1pm to 3pm. All access to the building needs to be supervised. For national online Church of England services streamed every Sunday visit churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

Ponteland Village WI

Due to the Covid-19 virus, like groups and organisations throughout the UK, we have been unable to hold our monthly meetings. However, our wonderful support network and friendships have meant that members have been in touch with one another and a monthly newsletter has been emailed to members. At the time of writing, we have no idea about when we'll be allowed to meet again, but for updates and information, email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook: Ponteland Village WI.

Looking after your legal needs for 40 years

At this difficult time for us all we wanted to offer reassurance that the team at Nicholson & Morgan have adapted our working methods to ensure we can continue to work for all our clients.

We are available to offer specialist advice on Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney, Residential and Commercial Property, and Contract Disputes throughout the current lockdown.

**N&M NICHOLSON
& MORGAN**
— S O L I C I T O R S —

You can contact us by email at law@nicholsonmorgan.co.uk or by calling **01661 871012** and for more information visit nicholsonmorgan.com

14 Bell Villas, Ponteland, Northumberland, NE20 9BE

Ponteland Schools and Leisure

Kier Regional Building Scotland & North East



Dear Resident,

Over the past month, we have made good progress with works on site. Output and resource levels have greatly improved as operatives become familiar with revised work practices and have adapted to their new processes.

We have seen a good level of progress through the month as more of the specialist trades have returned to work and almost all manufacturing facilities have now re-opened. Overall, the workforce continues to be extremely supportive of the revised operating procedures to allow them to work – many have expressed their relief at being able to come to site and try to maintain a level of normality in their daily routine.

June has seen good advancement to all areas – internal and external – with finishing works progressing throughout. Both Primary and Secondary School teaching wings are substantially complete, and the shared spaces to the Crescent areas are rapidly nearing completion. The public areas to the Crescent are progressing well, with works now focusing on finishing trades with the focus on delivery and installation of the specialist leisure offerings, such as the Clip 'n' Climb and Soft Play areas. Works have progressed well within the Pool Hall with the completion of the swimming pool tanks – main and learner pools – and the completion of high level works within the hall. You may also have noticed that the gable end curtain wall glazing has been completed to the Pool Hall and Gym (located on 2nd floor), closing up the final areas of the building.

The external areas have advanced through the month, with works progressing to the hard landscaping finishes between the teaching wings, as well as the Crescent Park to the front of the building facing on to Callerton Lane. Works have also advanced to the northern end of the South Car Park and are progressing well. This also ties in to the ongoing works to the Bridle Path, with the works for the Primary School bridge structure progressing well, and the bridge structure due to be craned into position by mid-July 2020.

What works will progress in the next 4 weeks?

- Complete finishes and snagging to the Primary School teaching wing.
- Progress Live Testing and Commissioning to the Primary School.
- Complete the internal finishes to the Secondary School teaching wing.
- Progress Live Testing and Commissioning to the Secondary School.
- Progress snagging to the Secondary School teaching wing.
- Complete colour-coat render panels to the Crescent external areas.
- Complete fit-out of Sports Hall to the Leisure Centre.
- Complete M&E installations to all Crescent areas.
- Progress finishing trades works to the Crescent areas.
- Complete trims and flashings to Curtain Walling installations to all areas.
- Complete pipework installation for the Swimming Pools and Aqua Play to the Pool Hall.
- Complete pool back-fill to the swimming pools in the Pool Hall.
- Progress pool deck slabs within the Pool Hall.
- Continue Testing and Commissioning of Roof Top Mechanical Equipment.
- Continue specialist Spa installation works.
- Continue works to the Bridleway.
- Install Primary School bridge structure.
- Continue construction of the South Car Park.
- Continue construction of the external artificial and natural Sports Pitches.
- Continue to progress External Works to all areas.
- Progress Soft Landscaping to all areas.

Works are now in the final stages, and the Project is progressing well. Over the next month, the external areas will progress towards completion with the landscaping and completion of the bridge to the Primary School. Works will also progress to the South Car Park and preparation works will move ahead for the new Play Park adjacent to Callerton Lane, next to the end of the Bridleway.

Watch Points through July

- Daily traffic movements in and out of the site
- Progression of works to the Bridleway.
- Crane Lift for installation of Primary School Bridge across the Bridleway.
- NCC Highways roadworks to Callerton Lane – Works by NCC Highways Direct.



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



Roddy Graham
Project Leader
07849 098786



Andy Todhunter
Operations Lead
07773 243081

ksne.ponteland@kier.co.uk



Introducing a new curate for the community

Parishioners at St Mary's Church will be welcoming a new curate this month. Reverend Rosemary Harrison talked to Pont News about her varied career as she looked forward to her new role assisting the Vicar of Ponteland Revd Paul.

I am a North East born and bred girl. Having been born in South Shields in the late 50s, I was brought up in Cleadon Village, near Sunderland.

I have travelled far and wide with the family and through work. Thirteen years ago I settled down in Stamfordham, back to the ways of village life. Presently, most of my family have settled down with me; they live in nearby Ingoo, although my sister remains very settled in the Bahamas.

I am delighted to come to Ponteland as I know the village reasonably well, as I do my shopping here.

Career wise, my work

experience has always been in the welfare sector. Social Services, the Probation Service and latterly with the RSPCA, I took early retirement to take care of my parents. When my duties of care were finally discharged, I was looking forward to having some time to myself. But that was not to be.

In 2014, I started the discernment process of becoming a priest with the Church of England. I spent three years at Lindisfarne College of Theology and was ordained Deacon in June 2019.

After ordination I was sent to Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark in the North Tyne Valley to serve my curacy

but due to an unforeseeable change of circumstances I was unable to remain.

Aside from work commitments, in my younger days I was very keen on sailing and canoeing, being in the Royal Naval Reserve and then helping with the Sea Cadets.

These days I am not quite so active - well, not on the water. I tend to stick to more sedentary activities. I enjoy baking, sewing, knitting, and have taken up 'serious' crochet. I enjoy the challenge of difficult patterns.

I no longer have pets of my own but do have frequent feline visitors; my house appears to be more

interesting than their own. Of course, not forgetting the birds, I do seem to feed the local population!

I now come to you at a time of change. We still have the anxiety of the virus, coped with the lockdown, and now we are easing restrictions. It is a time of mixed emotions for many, it is a time to be understanding of not only our own feelings but of others.

I say to you, let us continue to pray for one another, like those who have gone before us through difficult times. That our work may be produced by faith, our labour prompted by love and our endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



ristorante • bar • café



Takeaways

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Pre-order online → 

For up to date information, please visit our website
fratelliponteland.co.uk

T: 01661 872195

GAROLLA

ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS



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

THERMALLY INSULATED ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

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

CE Approved

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 -

Rotary cleans up Rotary Way

Community minded volunteers from Ponteland Rotary took part in a litter pick on Rotary Way and adjoining bridleways.

The event, held on Sunday June 7th, was supported by 18 Rotary club members and partners.

Ponteland Town Council arranged for the loan of the litter pick rods equipment, gloves, bags and hoops and also organised for placement of additional wheelie bins along the route.

Rotarian John Cooper said:

"The amount of rubbish collected was estimated to fill around ten bin bags. Items collected included numerous glass bottles, cans, pieces of timber and even a discarded car tyre.

"We also took the opportunity to clean up and restrain the wooden bench which is situated where the Bridleway crosses Rotary Way. The bench was dedicated to the memory of local businessman and Rotarian Dick Dodsworth."

Ponteland Rotary is planning to continue to support the local community by organising similar events each spring and autumn.



GJLelectrical

INSTALLATION • MAINTENANCE
TESTING • INSPECTING

07902 157313 • 0191 4131776



garyjlaggan@hotmail.com



The future is Cordless

Local no obligation demonstrations available

Visit our website www.maxhire.co.uk or
give us a call 01670 512793



MAXHIRE Ltd, Coopies Lane, Morpeth



KEEP CALM AND CURRY ON

order online at
haveliponteland.com

H A V E L I
G R E A T I N D I A N F O O D



 @HaveliPonteland  /Haveli.net  HaveliPonteland

