

# pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



School provides tonne of support for needy families  
 .....  
 Police investigating spate of graffiti attacks  
 .....  
 Former homes for orphans up for sale for £750,000

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# Former homes for orphans now on sale for £750,000

**For more than 50 years they housed orphans and children from very poor families. Today they are selling for a cool three-quarters of a million pounds apiece.**

The first of the former Cottage Homes on the former Northumbria Police headquarters site in Ponteland are now on sale, costing up to £775,995.

The listed Edwardian cottages are being carefully restored and converted to create new executive housing at The Listed at Ottermead development by Bellway.

The Listed will provide 22 new homes, including four and five-bedroom houses, as well as five two-bedroom apartments within the converted Superintendent's Home, while the original water tower is also being converted into a house.

The new development is described as "a range of Grade II-listed Arts and Crafts-style properties, set in a crescent around an attractive area of green open space, offering beautiful exterior period features with the interior comforts of modern homes".

The new properties are located within the wider 275-home Jameson Manor estate, which comprises the 206-dwelling Ottermead scheme and 69-home Bridgemoor development by Ashberry Homes.

The former police headquarters site, including the listed buildings, was bought by Bellway in 2018 for £21m, and this money has been reinvested into local policing in the area.

The Ponteland Cottage Homes were built in 1903 by John Leeson, having been commissioned by the Newcastle Board of Guardians to provide accommodation for 300 orphans and children of very poor families.

A school was opened in 1914 in Ponteland to take in the older children from the cottage homes. The building was later used for Ponteland First School before it moved in 2007.

The cottage homes complex closed in 1959, before being used by Ponteland College of Education and Northumbria Police.



The Listed at Ottermead showhome exterior and interior images and a photo of the Cottage Homes in the 1920s.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Town Council agreed a £350 grant to Sport Tynedale, which provides financial assistance to athletes and teams achieving excellence and gaining representative honours and to coaches and officials seeking new qualifications.

## TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS AT LADYWELL WAY

The Council is to question the species chosen for a tree to replace one of three felled to make way for a new property on land at Ladywell Way. PTC had been asked by the County Council to comment on the tree preservation orders for the three new trees. One resident, unhappy with the location of two of the trees and with concerns re the species, submitted an objection.

The Town Council had no objection to the suggested locations but is to query whether a Black Cherry is the best choice of tree due to the root spread.

## PAVEMENT PARKING – OPTIONS FOR CHANGE (GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION)

The Town Council considered a report about the above nationwide consultation exercise. Councillors recognised the problems that parking on pavements caused for both pedestrians and motorists, but acknowledged it was inevitable to provide access in certain areas. They agreed that this would be best dealt with by the County Council as the highways authority. Town Councillors will consider whether to submit comments as individuals.

## HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

Members of the Highways Working Party have agreed their priorities for the NCC Local Transport Plan for 2021-22. Top priority is bridleway crossing safety improvements to include a Pegasus crossing on Rotary Way suitable for use by horse riders to the bridleways. Next is road improvements on Fox Covert Lane and/or the addition of a dedicated footpath in the interests of pedestrian safety. Members have also asked for raised bus stops at Cheviot View near to Dobbies on the A696 and Middle Drive close to the junction with Broadway and speed surveys at locations on Middle Drive, Western Way and North Road where the speed limit changes from 60mph to 30mph.

This report is based on the minutes of the first remote Town Council meeting held on November 11th.






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# School provides a tonne of help for needy families

**Generous staff and students (and parents) have amassed nearly a tonne of much needed food and other essentials for needy families.**

Newcastle West End Foodbank collected around 70 crates of supplies from Ponteland High School on November 16th.

It was the third collection for the foodbank from the school, with the previous one delivered just before the first national lockdown in March.

In a message of thanks, foodbank volunteers praised both the scale and efficiency of the collection - delivered in a time of need as cold weather and the demands of another national lockdown begin to make charity operations even more challenging.

Newcastle West End Foodbank opened in 2013 and is one of the busiest in the UK, providing food parcels which feed more than 30,000 people in the west end of Newcastle per year.

Top requests for food donations from the foodbank are tinned fruit, jam, cereal, juice, rice pudding and custard. Donations can be dropped at Benwell Foodbank Centre (off Whickham View opposite Tyne View Dentists) between 9.30am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information visit: [newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk](http://newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk)



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# Meet your new local policing team



By PC Tom Ward,  
Ponteland Neighbourhood  
Police Officer

## Anti-social behaviour – Halloween & Bonfire Night

The East Tynedale Neighbourhood Team has experienced an increase in reporting on and around Halloween and Bonfire Night. Primarily, this related to youth disorder and other associated issues. We are grateful for the level of support from our communities, as our best asset remains people willing to report their concerns. Enquiries are ongoing to identify key offenders, and we will continue to work closely with schools and local authorities to prevent such incidents. The team is also investigating a recent spate of graffiti in and around Ponteland suspected to have been linked to this disorder. To date, a number of suspects have been identified and remain the subject of a criminal investigation.



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## Some introductions – new members of your local policing team

### Inspector Garry Neil – Tynedale

Tynedale has a new Inspector following the retirement of Insp Pam Bridges. Insp Garry Neil, who has been appointed to this position, has 25 years of service within Northumbria Police across various operational departments. Insp Neil is excited to engage with our communities, and is committed to targeting rural criminals and addressing issues that matter to you. He continues to build on links with our partner agencies to jointly address crime by prevention and problem solving, and is keen to work closely with our Rural Crime Volunteers who are the eyes and ears in the areas they live and work.

### Sergeant Dave Humble – East Tynedale

Sergeant Dave Humble has joined our Neighbourhood Team covering Ponteland and other areas of East Tynedale. Sgt Humble is keen to get involved in all aspects of neighbourhood policing. He is committed to proactively targeting those whose actions are a detriment to our communities and therefore help to make the local area safer. He said: "With over 11 years' policing experience I have worked across all disciplines within the organisation. As a qualified detective I have worked on numerous investigations including that of murder and serious sexual assault. Before this current neighbourhood role I led teams to deliver excellence when investigating serious category crime in the Secondary Investigation Unit. I am really keen to progress community intelligence and wish to reiterate the need for residents to contact police should they have any concerns. My team continually work with partner agencies to tackle crime in order to keep you all safe."

### PC Tom Ward

Having been a member of the East Tynedale team for over a year I have now been allocated as your Neighbourhood Beat Manager. Day to day I am responsible for investigating offences, working with local schools as the dedicated Liaison Officer and proactively targeting offenders. Please be advised to keep your properties and items safe and secure as the darker nights come in.

## How to get in touch

I would always advise readers to get in touch with us if you have concerns – if I am not told about an incident it may never come to my attention. This can be done through 101 or web submission by visiting [northumbria.police.uk](http://northumbria.police.uk). If your call is of an emergency nature this should always be done through 999. You may also speak with our team by emailing [northernprudhoenptmailbox@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:northernprudhoenptmailbox@northumbria.pnn.police.uk). You can also provide information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via the Crimestoppers website.

# Archives brought to life in virtual talks

## Northumberland Archives will be brought to life in a series of free online talks.

Staff from the archives and library teams will be hosting the talks once a month, starting this month. The virtual sessions have been made possible through funding from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

Archives received £48,100 from the fund, part of the Government's £1.5bn #HereforCulture package to protect the UK's culture and heritage sectors from the economic impacts of Covid-19.

The funding was intended for initiatives such as this to allow the service to engage with new audiences who would not usually use the archives service.

It will also be used to create an online shop for those using the archives to be able to download high-quality imagery, investigate the possibilities of partnerships in relation to commercial services to reach a wider audience.

The list of talks is as follows:

- Thursday December 10th – Stannington Sanatorium, England's First Children's TB Sanatorium – Sue Wood, Head of Archives
- Thursday January 7th – Evidence of Women and their Lives in the Berwick Archives – Linda Bankier, Berwick Archivist
- Thursday January 21st – The Butler Family of Ewart Park – Sarah Littlefear, Archivist.



- Thursday February 11th – An Introduction to Local Studies: Northumberland's Heritage at your Fingertips – Kate St. Clair Gibson, Local Studies Librarian
- Thursday March 11th – Hidden Histories: Tapping the archives for stories of Black Presence in Northumberland – Jo March, Senior Archivist

To book a place on the talks visit [eventbrite.co.uk](https://eventbrite.co.uk) and search for Northumberland Archives.

The Children's Sanatorium, Stannington, ready for the visit of HRH The Duke of York in May 1926.

## ADVERTISING FEATURE

### Physical health: always number one on your list of lifestyle priorities

By David Lamb

**In my column in last month's issue, I suggested that on a scale of one to ten - where one is the most important thing and ten is the least important - money should be scored at number nine.**

The most important factor in your lifestyle is physical health. If you have poor physical health, you may not be able to work or do many of the things you would normally enjoy. You may even need somebody to look after you.

Over my many years as a financial planner, I have seen numerous people who have spent too long at work chasing money and suddenly they are overweight, extremely unfit and unhealthy.

Physical activity and exercise are important for people of all ages. Regular physical activity promotes good health, and you should stay active throughout all stages of your life regardless of your body type or BMI.

Many studies have shown that regular physical activity increases life expectancy and reduces the risk of premature mortality.

Regular exercise promotes strong muscles and bones, it improves respiratory, cardiovascular and overall health. Staying active can also help maintain a healthy weight, reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and reduce the risk of some cancers.

A few years ago over New Year I got flu and couldn't get out on my bike for almost a month. In the February I eventually ventured out for the first time, not looking forward to the next two hours. The rain and gale force winds were definitely going to add to my misery.

As I got to the end of my street, an £80,000 car pulled over. I noticed the driver looking down at me from his nice warm car, as if I were mad. He then got out. He was wearing a suit (at 9.15 on a Saturday morning) and was huge (I don't mean tall, I mean wide!) and he laboured across the road.

He obviously wasn't short of money, so he probably did not really need to be working on a Saturday morning, but he was in such poor physical condition that it is unlikely that he will get to see the benefits of all his money and there will be a good chance he will not see 60.

Focusing on number nine, ignoring number one.





# A great environment to learn in

Staff and students give their verdict on £43m learning and leisure scheme



**Excited staff and students have spoken of their delight after moving into their impressive new school.**

The £43m learning and leisure scheme on Callerton Lane, Ponteland, which includes a 1,600-pupil secondary school, 420-pupil primary school and 52-place nursery, opened on November 3rd.

The new secondary school has a 110-seat lecture theatre, 270-seat main hall, 15 science labs, an art and technology suite, music and drama suite, five IT suites, 49 standard classrooms and a PE studio/gym.

Shared facilities which will be used by both the schools and the local community include a four-court sports hall with indoor cricket nets, 3G pitch, two hard court multi-use games areas (MUGAs), grass pitches and changing rooms.

Leisure charity Active Northumberland is managing the new leisure centre, which boasts a six-lane swimming pool with height adjustable floor, a learner pool including aquaplay, a spa and a gym, virtual cycling studio as well as a soft play area, clip 'n' climb activity centre, a library, café and sports bar. It will open to the public once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.





Lynn Blain, Headteacher of Ponteland Primary School, said: "The schools have got light, spacious accommodation with flexible learning spaces well connected to the outdoors, and access to a wide range of sporting facilities. This is just what we'd asked for."

Primary School pupils were equally impressed. Year 6 student Niamh said: "We are really proud of our new building. It is a great environment to learn in and we can concentrate more."

Year 2 pupil Harleen agreed, describing the new school as "awesome", while Abigail (also Year 2) added: "This is the best school ever in the world."

Staff at the neighbouring High School were also settling in well. Head of Humanities John Brown said: "I arrived at the new building with impossibly high expectations, however even these have been surpassed - it is just fantastic."

Year 8 student James Hickie is also a big fan. He said: "We just love the space - especially the dedicated student social areas!"

Headteacher Kieran McGrane added: "The new school building layout is exceptional, providing ample indoor student social spaces, excellent classroom environments and plenty of natural light promoting a feeling of space and openness."





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**Heddon on the Wall St Andrews Cof E Primary School**  
Headteacher Mr Wheatley  
01661 853350

**Richard Coates C of E Primary School**  
Headteacher Mrs Cape  
01661 823167





# Comfort and Joy

By Revd. Captain Paul Allinson, Vicar of Ponteland

**Shepherds are people. Perfectly ordinary people, like you and me. They eat when they are hungry, they fall asleep when they are tired. No different from the rest of us.**



They have an unusual job to do, looking after sheep. They must turn out in the middle of the night in all weathers to care for their sheep. They must learn certain skills which the rest of us don't need, like managing a sheepdog, using a sheep dip, and how to cut the wool off the sheep's back at shearing time.

But ask shepherds and they will tell you; they are just ordinary people.

When the King of Kings came to earth, in Bethlehem, the town where King David had been born centuries earlier, to whom did He first appear? To kings and queens, or to ordinary people?

Well if the three wise men were really kings, they didn't arrive until much later; the first on the scene were the shepherds of Bethlehem. Shepherds. Perfectly ordinary people, like you and me.

Why did the angels send mere shepherds to see the new-born king and to tell their neighbours about him? Surely it would have been better to send the rich and the famous to listen to them. But no, God chose shepherds, ordinary people.

And the angels said to them: "I am bringing you news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

"Joyful news for all people." The coming of God to earth as a perfectly ordinary baby was good news for everybody. Not just for kings and queens; not just for the rich and famous; not just for television and sporting personalities; but for perfectly ordinary people like the shepherds. Like you. Like me.

That is why God chose ordinary people to bring us the joyful news. So that we should realise that it's important for us, too. After all, we think, the birth of a new king, what has that got to do with people like us?

But Jesus was a very special sort of king. He was a king of the people, a king for the people, the ordinary people like us. He is our Saviour, to save us from the guilt of our sins, from slavery to bad habits, and from the fear of death. To reveal to us the love of God, and God's plan for the world.

We might not have realised that all those wonderful things applied to ordinary people like us, if God hadn't chosen ordinary people like the shepherds to tell us. You and I ought to be grateful to the shepherds of Bethlehem, and to God for choosing them.

So, to all you perfectly ordinary people reading this, God wishes you a joyful Christmas. And so do I. Happy Christmas, everybody!

## Christmas Services 2020

St Mary's Church  
9.30am and 11am - Parish Eucharist

Holy Saviour, Milbourne  
11.15am - Morning Service

Please confirm attendance through the Parish Office:  
[office@pontelandstmary.co.uk](mailto:office@pontelandstmary.co.uk)

\* All services subject to applicable Covid-19 regulations at the time

### A Note from the Vicar:

Ponteland Parish continues to support local initiatives to provide food, essential items and Christmas treats during these uncertain times. Donations can be left in church or at the vicarage. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



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# Your letters

The Editor  
Pont News & Views



**Calls for improvements to a new play area and litter bins outside the new school and leisure complex in this month's letters...**

## Very disappointed at new playground

**I was initially heartened to read in last month's issue that our local councils have gone ahead with the replacement of the popular Callerton Lane playground that sadly had to be demolished to make way for the new schools and leisure centre.**

However, I was very disappointed on visiting the new site to find that it remains out of bounds and not opened as advertised in Pont News & Views.

I was informed by a notice on the fence that there are safety and insurance issues remaining to be resolved.

My own impression of the enclosed area is that it is far too small for the quantity and range of brand new equipment provided. There just isn't enough space for children to run around and none at all to accommodate pushchairs or supervising adults.

No seating has been provided anywhere; are grandparents and pregnant mums just expected to stand outside the perimeter fence?

Whoever designed the new play area need have looked no further than the old playground as a model for what works well. That playground was originally constructed some 30 years ago, on a shoestring budget provided by a local mums' fundraising campaign (Action for Ponteland Playgrounds) with support only from the then Parish Council.

The site was very rough and initially waterlogged, but nicely sheltered by mature trees along the road and the addition of hedging. Proper surfacing was unaffordable and equipment limited, although good use was made of some recycled swings and a slide. And there was plenty of room for children to run around; plus generous provision of seats for oldies and picnic tables for all!

It is astonishing that now so much money has obviously been spent on so much state of the art equipment with so little success.

I realise it is a bit late to suggest that moving the location higher up Callerton Lane wasn't the best idea, as it is much less protected and more exposed to traffic both from the road, and from proximity to the new car park.

However, improved planting/screening could be provided and the whole area substantially enlarged, with the addition of some much needed seating.

**Katherine Guellard**

*Meadow Court, Ponteland*

## Town Council response

Unfortunately, the play area could not be opened in the first week of November as promised, for the reasons outlined in the notice at the facility. New play areas must be examined by insurance inspectors before opening. For that reason, the temporary play area was left in situ so that a facility was still available for children.

The facility has been approved for size and content by the insurers. Seating is on order and is taking longer than anticipated but will be installed as soon as it is received.

It will take time to carry out landscaping works and it is anticipated that seats and a picnic bench will be provided outside of the fenced off play area once this work has been carried out.

The Town Council relinquished their lease on the old play area on Callerton Lane to make way for the new school and leisure development and were allocated the land where the new facility was located by the County Council.

It is regrettable that the author of the letter feels disappointed at such a great new facility for the children of Ponteland. We have received many positive comments, which is demonstrated by the number of children making use of the space.

**Councillor Alan Varley, Mayor of Ponteland**

## Litter bins needed outside new school

**The roadworks and new pathways on Callerton Lane are finished at last, and look good.**

I was glad to see the seat near the park entrance has been kept, although on the other side of the road.

Could we now have a few strategically placed litter bins, so that our young people returning to school after buying their lunch in the village, have somewhere to put their rubbish.

Let us encourage them to be litter conscious.

**M. Richardson**

*Fairney Edge, Ponteland*

**January issue deadlines:** The deadline for all copy and adverts for the January issue is Wednesday December 9th. Door to door distribution will be from Monday January 4th to Friday January 8th. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the December issue. Please visit [ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views](http://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.



# What's on...

## Virtual talks launched by Northumberland Archive

Northumberland Archives will be brought to life in a series of free online talks hosted by staff from the archives and library teams. The virtual sessions, funded by a £48,000 grant from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, start with a talk by Head of Archives Sue Wood on 'Stannington Sanatorium, England's First Children's TB Sanatorium' on Thursday December 10th. To book a place on the talks visit [eventbrite.co.uk](https://eventbrite.co.uk) and search for Northumberland Archives. For details on the other talks see the article on p7.

## Ponteland Senior Gentleman's Club

As the lockdown drags on with no prospect of us being able to resume meetings in the Memorial Hall, we have decided to hold online Zoom meetings at our usual meeting times – the second Monday of every month at 2.30pm. These will take the form of a short talk followed by an opportunity to ask questions and to chat. The first Zoom meeting will be on Monday December 14th at 2.30pm, when a talk will be given by The

Rev'd Christine Brown. As with our normal meetings, we will welcome senior gentlemen as guests. Enquiries to [pontelandsgc@gmail.com](mailto:pontelandsgc@gmail.com).

## Ponteland Village WI

Ponteland Village WI has only managed one meeting this year, but friendships made through the friendly group have helped to sustain and support members during the long Covid crisis. The committee has met monthly and a monthly newsletter has helped members to stay in touch and share experiences. A virtual Coffee Club started in November with a series of Zoom get-togethers. A Zoom Christmas craft evening is also planned plus a Zoom Book Club has been held regularly, so there has been a lot going on. For updates and information, email [pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com](mailto:pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com) or find us on Facebook, Ponteland Village WI

## Ponteland U3A

Due to the current situation we cannot meet 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 on the first

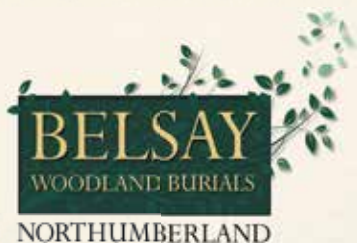
Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Our next Zoom meeting and talk will be on Wednesday December 2nd when Chris Bostock will present "Winter Tales". For information on how to take part please visit [u3asites.org.uk/Ponteland](https://u3asites.org.uk/Ponteland) - a link to this talk will also be placed in the relevant Ponteland Facebook groups. 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. The contact number for information on Ponteland u3a is (01661) 824953. In the meantime keep safe and well.

## Ponteland Rotary

Rotarians in Ponteland are holding their meetings online using Zoom every two weeks on a Tuesday morning. Visit [rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=155](https://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=155)

## Ponteland Community Partnership

The partnership continues to work for the benefit of the community, but because of Covid-19 distancing restrictions, it is holding virtual meetings via Zoom. All residents are invited to view our activities on our website, where many facets of our work may be of interest. Comments and ideas are always welcomed. Visit [pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk](https://pontelandcommunitypartnership.co.uk)



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# A village remembers

Three spectacular giant poppies in the heart of the village helped the people of Ponteland to remember the sacrifices of two World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

The annual Remembrance parade and services could not be held due to Covid restrictions and concern for people's health and safety. But Ponteland still remembered with style and dignity.

A year-long community project by Ponteland Town Council led to the creation of the three giant poppies which attracted much praise.

The large poppies, made up of more than 2,000 poppies knitted or crocheted by both current and former Ponteland residents, were stretched across three metal frames by council contractor Iain Clough.

The Council made a £200 donation to the Royal British Legion and encouraged individuals and groups to buy wreaths to support the Legion's work and lay them at the War Memorial. It also bought and laid wreaths on the three Commonwealth War Graves in St Mary's Churchyard.

Children were urged to put pictures of poppies in their windows and many people observed a two-minute silence on their doorsteps on Remembrance Sunday.

On November 11th, the Vicar of Ponteland Rev Capt Paul Allinson went to the War Memorial for a private prayer. About 30 people gathered just before 11am, all standing socially-distanced, and a two-minute silence was observed, followed by representatives of several

organisations laying wreaths.

Coun Karen Overbury, who helps to organise Remembrance events in Ponteland, said: "The Town Council had planned drop-ins and workshops so people of all ages could get together to make poppies or learn how to knit or crochet.

"Obviously, we were forced to cancel all our community events, but we got the word out and the wonderful people of Ponteland came up trumps."

Ponteland Mayor Alan Varley, who laid a wreath at the War Memorial early on Remembrance Sunday, said: "All councillors were very disappointed to have to cancel the 2020 Remembrance Sunday parade and service due to Covid.

"However, we were determined that the fallen of the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts would not be forgotten. It was important that Ponteland remembered.

"The giant poppies have received huge praise and I feel very proud of the hard work that went into making them and want to thank the many people who used their skills during the Covid crisis to make poppies. Hopefully, we will be able to dry the displays for use next year and we are considering making more for other areas."

Cover shot: Ponteland Mayor Alan Varley at the War Memorial. Photo by Barry Pells.





# Holy Snowman! Young superheroes wanted for Christmas park hunt

**Calling all young superheroes! If you want a chance of a boost to your pocket money, get yourself down to Ponteland Park this Christmas for the 'Snowman and Robin' hunt.**

Rotary Ponteland will be hiding snowmen and robins in trees around the park – all at a safe height visible from the ground, so no tree climbing required!

The locations need to be correctly marked in a map of the park which can be downloaded from the Rotary Ponteland Facebook page and emailed to [info@rotaryponteland.org.uk](mailto:info@rotaryponteland.org.uk) by 5pm on Sunday January 10th.

There will be two age groups – under-7s who will be challenged to 'Spot the Snowmen' and children aged seven to 13 years who need to Spot the RSPB Robins' which will be harder to find. The hunt starts on Saturday December 19th and the winner in each age group will receive a £10 cash prize.



## Rebecca on crest of a wave after yachting call-up

Ponteland student Rebecca Green is on the crest of a wave after being selected for a regional training squad by the Royal Yachting Association.

The Year 10 pupil at Ponteland High School has been chosen for the Regional Training Group by the RYA in recognition of her potential to progress within the British Sailing Team.

The ultimate aim is winning selection for their UK Youth Squads or on to their Olympic Development programmes.

Chris Atherton, RYA National Performance Manager (British Youth Sailing Team) said: "Rebecca has been selected on the basis

of her performance and commitment to a programme of training and competitions over a period of several years.

"She has established her status as a British Youth Sailing sailor who we hope will represent Great Britain at major international events in the forthcoming years."

Describing Rebecca as "a very humble young lady with an exceptional talent" the High School said her achievement was "amazing".

Competition Organiser John Cooper said: "We wanted to organise a simple event that would give children something to do during their Christmas holidays and let them enjoy the park and burn off some of their excess energy at the same time.

"By having two different objects to find it will encourage families to have their own mini-competition to add a bit of fun and family competition to the hunt."

For more information visit: [facebook.com/RotaryPonteland](https://facebook.com/RotaryPonteland)



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## Luxury kitchen and bathroom showroom opens in Ponteland

Home to some of the world's most exclusive kitchen and bathroom products, Stonebridge Interiors offer a full bespoke kitchen and bathroom design and installation service to customers across the North of England and Southern Scotland.

Many of the leading brands stocked by the new showroom are exclusive to Stonebridge in this region.

The bathroom side is headed up by Armani-Roca, with other premium brands such as Matki, Kaldewei, Swadling Brassware and Silverdale Bathrooms.

To complement our partnership with Stoneham, the kitchen manufacturer which has held the Royal Warrant since 1995, Stonebridge work with Miele, BORA, Buster & Punch, Spekva and many more carefully selected brands.

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