

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Meet Darras Hall's
diamond couple

.....
Tributes paid to rugby and
cricket club stalwarts

.....
Malicious banner and
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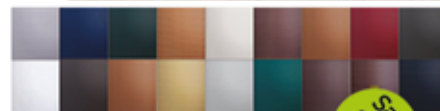
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Happy anniversary to Darras Hall's diamond couple

For 20 years they helped people mark special occasions from their card shop in Newcastle's Grainger Market.

But this week it's Jim and Marian Falcus' turn to celebrate, as they reach a marriage milestone of their own - their diamond wedding anniversary.

The couple, of Errington Road, Darras Hall, married at Jesmond Presbyterian Church on Saturday March 4th 1961 when Jim was 25 and Marian was 21.

They met at the Fenwick department store in Newcastle, where Byker-born Jim was an underbuyer and Marian, of Mill Hill in London, was employed in the cosmetics hall. She had previously worked at the Dickins & Jones

department store in London and followed her parents to Newcastle once she had secured her job at Fenwick aged 19.

Starting married life in a Fenwick-owned flat in Gosforth, they moved to Chapel House when eldest daughter Gillian was six weeks old. They had two more daughters, Louise and Samantha, before opening Best Wishes in the Grainger Market in 1977.

Mother-of-three and grandmother-of-five Gillian, now 58, is married to Alan and they live in Chapel Park. Louise, 56, lives in Ponteland with husband Stephen, and they have a grown up son and daughter. Samantha, 53, also lives in Ponteland and is married to Graeme with two grown up children.

Jim and Marian retired in 1997, moving from Fenham to Darras Hall the following



year. They are active members of Ponteland meanderers, a local walking group, while Jim, now 85, is also a member of Ponteland Bowls and Marian, 81, is a keen croquet player.

Samantha said: "Hopefully we can all get together for a family celebration when we're allowed to. But it will be a lovely surprise for them to see themselves featured in Pont News!"

Teachers deliver half term treat for hard working pupils

Caring teachers rewarded their hard working pupils with an early half term treat, delivering a thank you note and chocolate gift to their homes.

More than 500 pupils at Darras Hall Primary School received the gifts in recognition of their efforts during the ongoing lockdown, when most schoolchildren are having to learn remotely.

The generous gesture was funded by the school's Parent Teacher Association, with 27 members of staff and PTA members volunteering to deliver the gifts.

Headteacher Victoria Parr said: "The commitment and resilience shown by staff, parents and pupils since the start of the term has been overwhelming. After hearing the announcement at 8pm on January 4th, staff kicked into action and by the following morning our full curriculum had moved online.

"The level of engagement with remote learning has been exceptionally high. We are extremely grateful to our parents, many of whom have been working from home while supporting their children's remote learning.

"The vast majority of pupils from Nursery to Year 6 are engaging fully with the learning set by teachers, who are using a range of new technology to provide support and guidance remotely.



"We received an allocation of four laptops from DfE, but we are fortunate that our PTA has funded 15 new devices which we have used to loan to families in need."

Pupils and staff have benefited from regular opportunities to join as a school community through live class meets and whole school assemblies; the largest of which was attended by over 350 pupils. Children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils have been in school and have looked forward to seeing their friends regularly during the live sessions.

Ms Parr added: "At the end of such a long and challenging half term, we wanted to reach out to our pupils to recognise their efforts, let them know that the Darras Hall Primary School community remains strong, even when we aren't together and hope that we're all back in school very soon."

Cover shot: Pupil Ollie receives his chocolate and thank you note from headteacher Victoria Parr (left) and Year 5 teacher Eloise Davies. Above: Administration officer Sandra McGovan, Year 5 teacher Eloise Davies and headteacher Victoria Parr with a box of deliveries. Photos by Barry Pells.

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*Full hearing assessment and demonstration is £75, refundable against hearing aid purchase.

In addition, a £20 Peace of Mind surcharge applies to all face to face appointments.



Your photos

Our selection of readers' photos featured in the February issue was a huge hit, so we invited you to send more of your pics in. Here are just a few of the many we received. Thanks to everyone who took the time to email us – sorry we did not have room for more!



A young male pheasant in the garden taken by Mark Thomason, of Grenville Court, Darras Hall



A beautiful sunset behind Sébastien Corbett, nine, taken in Meadow Court, Darras Hall



This red squirrel is a regular visitor to Andrew and Clare Macleod's home in Runnymede Road, Darras Hall



Tia Fail, 16, an equine student at Kirkley Hall, took this fungal photo in her grandfather's garden at Cambo West Houses



A frozen Dipping Pond in Ponteland Park taken by David Weissand, of Willow Way, Darras Hall



Clinical trials manager Samantha Russell took this shot on a wintry morning walk in Medburn

Fond farewell to sporting great

By Chris Morgan

Sports clubs from around Ponteland came together to pay their respects after the passing of a sporting great.

Ron Fairweather sadly passed away on Tuesday January 12th and while numbers were restricted at his funeral on January 28th, the cortege was able to pass through Ponteland where members of various sports clubs lined the streets to pay their respects.

Ron had the distinction of representing Ponteland Cricket Club, Rugby Club, Tennis Club, Golf Club and Bowls Club – a rare honour that not many people will be able to claim.

It was with Ponteland Cricket Club that Ron enjoyed his most success as the club's opening bowler over a 40 year stint from 1966 – 2006. During this time, Ron took an incredible 1,253 league wickets, including 897 1st XI League wickets – a club record and one that will almost certainly never be broken.



He was a crucial part of the side during the club's golden era of the early 1990s where they won the Northumberland League in 1990 and the William Birkett Cup in 1991, where he took 5-31 in the semi-final against Warkworth.

His personal best figures were 9-45 against Corbridge and in 1981 he took 72 wickets, which earned him the league

bowling award. Such was Ron's expertise with the ball, he actually took four or more wickets in an innings more times than he did none. Ron served as Club President and was an Honorary Life Member of the club.

At Ponteland Rugby Club, he played fly-half for the first team where he obtained the nickname "Golden Boots". He was also a keen social member of both the tennis club and the golf club and in his later life, turned his hand to bowls where he played outdoor at Ponteland in summer and indoors at Westerhope in the winter.

Ron also took his sporting prowess overseas, regularly winning Petanque competitions in the South of France where he spent most summers after his retirement.

He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him in both the Ponteland sporting community and beyond. Ron's family have been amazed and most grateful for all the messages they have received from throughout Ponteland.

Rugby Club mourns loss of three of its own

By Andy Lawson

After enjoying a convincing win over Darlington Rugby Club on March 13th 2020 to maintain the push for promotion, no one at Ponteland Rugby Club could have envisaged what the next year would hold.

Preparations for the Beer Festival on the weekend of April 10th - 12th were all in place under the watchful eye of Andy Maidwell. However they were to be cast asunder as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold.

Over the ensuing eight months Ponteland Rugby Club mourned the loss of three of its members.

On April 23rd Sharon Anderson, one of our most dedicated and valued volunteers, sadly lost her hard fought battle with cancer which she faced with stoicism and determination while continuing to work and give of her free time since her diagnosis.

Then on October 5th a true club legend passed away. Wes Dixon was an unforgettable character and such a dear friend to so many, particularly within the communities of Ponteland Rugby Club and Northumberland Rugby Union.

Wes first played for the club as a colt in the late 60s and went on to captain the 1st XV in the 1975-77 and 1981-83 seasons. He was Club President in 1986-1989 and County President in the 2006-2007 season.



Wes will also be remembered for his domination of the Ponteland Wheelbarrow Race, particularly in the 1980s, winning it on many occasions and still holding the fastest ever recorded time set in 1983.

On December 30th founder member and another club legend Bill Snaith passed away. Known by many throughout the region as Mr Ponteland, many former players hold fond memories of Bill – whether it was his converted ambulance picking them up from all over Newcastle to play rugby for Ponteland, his 'magic' sponge during games or his 'magic' coffee after games!

Bill played in Ponteland's first ever game on September 9th 1967 and he was instrumental in developing a succession of strong Colts teams, culminating in the all conquering class of 1975 winning the County Colts Cup.

Postal voting encouraged as local elections confirmed

Voters are being encouraged to register for postal voting after the Government confirmed local elections will go ahead on May 6th.

Preparations are well underway to enable the County, Town and Parish Councils and Police and Crime Commissioner elections to go ahead safely in a way which is Covid-secure for voters and staff.

The county council is sending everyone on the electoral register that is not currently registered to receive a postal ballot paper, a letter inviting them to apply for a postal vote.

For those who opt to vote in person, the experience will be very different this year.

Voters will be asked to bring their own pens or pencils to fill in their ballot papers



and it will be compulsory to wear face coverings in polling stations unless they can provide a medical exemption.

Hand sanitisers, divider screens at polling desks and social distancing markers will also be in place at polling stations to keep voters safe.

Kelly Angus, the County Council's Deputy Chief Executive and Returning Officer, said: "Voting by post saves a trip to the polling station and can be particularly helpful for those who may struggle, those living in a remote rural area and for those who may be working, or away on polling day."

At the last elections for Ponteland Town Council in 2017, three of the four wards were uncontested – Ponteland East, Ponteland South and Ponteland West. Ponteland North was contested.

There are currently 12 Conservative town councillors, including Councillor Richard Dodd who also sits as a county councillor.

A full list of candidates for both county and town council elections in Ponteland will be published in the May issue of Pont News.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Don't trade too much time for something less important - money



By David Lamb

Time is an essential component of a balanced lifestyle and, regardless of any other factors, we all have the same amount of time in any one day.

But time is a strange thing. Is it long, or is it short? It depends upon what you are doing, doesn't it? If you are in a new relationship time flies by, but if you are stuck in the queue at the supermarket during lockdown it drags.

Time also seems to get quicker the older you get. Do you remember the 'Millennium bug', when all computers were going to crash at midnight on 31 December 1999 and aeroplanes could be falling out of the sky? I recall all the work (and time) we had to do to protect our IT systems

from this potential disaster and what happened? Nothing, absolutely nothing.

That was 21 years ago! A fifth of a century! The frightening thing is it only seems like three or four years ago. How quickly will the next 21 years ago? Will it seem like three or four years again? How will you be in 21 years' time?

It is not just our time we need to consider, but other people's. A couple of years ago, we went to see the Rolling Stones in concert with friends who said that they could not wait to see them again. With the Stones having a combined age of over 300 years, they had better be quick!

How quickly do children grow up? This is valuable time that should not be wasted doing less important

things. One minute you are changing their nappies, the next they are scrounging money to put petrol in their cars!

Another strange thing with time is that people will trade it for something less important, money. They spend too long chasing it.

An important element for a financial plan should be to identify when you can stop doing the things you don't want to do and start doing the things you do want to do. It will also help determine how much is *enough* which will then help you understand how much time you need to spend earning the amount of money you need to support your lifestyle.

Do you have sufficient time to do the things you want to do? If not, what do you plan to do about it?

Malicious banner and letters cause distress



PC Tom Ward, Ponteland Neighbourhood Police Officer



An investigation has taken place and we are continuing to assess if there is any further evidence that may shed light on who is responsible.

This incident has had a significant impact on the victim and it remains a concern that someone would go to such lengths in a malicious and directed way. I would like to appeal to readers to come forward with any information for who is responsible, which can assist with this investigation.

In December police were made aware of a banner that had been placed on Broadway, Darras Hall. This included a number of sexually explicit messages, along with personal contact details for a member of our community.

Malicious letters

Police have also been made aware that a member of our community has been receiving a number of anonymous letters. The content of these letters, although not criminal, does use various terms that are concerning. The receipt of such letters, especially anonymously, is unnerving and is something that police will continue to monitor should the contents cross into a criminal offence.

Speeding on Darras Hall

Officers from our Roads Policing Unit have visited Ponteland this past month following numerous complaints from local residents around speeding and inappropriate driving. Our colleagues have taken action against such drivers and will continue to work with our neighbourhood team. Further attention will be paid over the coming weeks regarding this matter.

How to get in touch

Readers can get in touch through 101 or web submission by visiting 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 northernprudhoeptmailbox@northumbria.pnn.police.uk. You can also provide information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via the Crimestoppers website.

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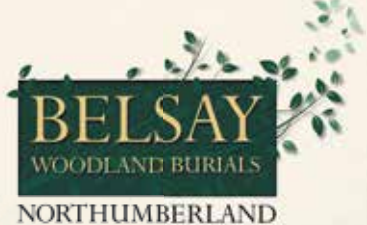


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An impressive setting matched by an aspirational curriculum



Pele Trust is a group of like-minded schools brought together by choice. We are keen to retain the uniqueness and individuality of each school, as illustrated by this focus on Ponteland Primary School.

Ponteland Primary School opened the doors of its brand new, state of the art building at the end of last year, much to the excitement of its staff and pupils.

The new site, which is shared with the High School and leisure centre, boasts well proportioned and beautifully designed classrooms overlooking extensive greenery. It is an idyllic setting to spark learning and the children and staff are very proud of their new surroundings.

Year 6 pupil Emily told us: "It's even better than the old school - I feel really happy to be here."

Understandably, the staff are disappointed that they have not been able to welcome parents in to see their new facilities due to the Covid-19 restrictions and are eager for a time when the school will be able to invite all of its families inside.

The impressive setting is matched by the aspirational curriculum which staff have worked hard to develop. Head Teacher Lynn Blain explained: "We want our pupils to be confident, resilient, independent and inquisitive learners who develop an understanding of the world - past, present and future - and see themselves as being active agents of its evolution."

Using the Oxfam Global Curriculum themes, the school has designed a curriculum which is knowledge rich, taking the children beyond their own contexts and supporting the school's commitment for all children to have a deep understanding of the world around them. The curriculum introduces them to new concepts, contexts and experiences so that they develop a rich cultural capital and become socially aware, confident and reflective young citizens of the world. Lynn Blain added: "Knowledge for its own sake is not the goal. We want our pupils to acquire knowledge and be empowered to take action."

The school is driven by its values, such as respect, resilience, bravery and kindness, and these values underpin all aspects of school life. The school is passionate about empowering the children to see themselves as agents of change who can make a difference in their own lives, in their communities and in the wider world beyond the school gates.



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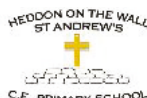


BE KIND • BE RESPECTFUL • BE RESILIENT

Year 1 teacher Lyndsey Blyth explained how this translates into the Year 1 curriculum: "Using the visual stimulus of the film Up, this term we are exploring history through the eyes of the children's grandparents, making comparisons between their childhoods and our pupils' lives. From here, the children learn that elderly people may be lonely in society and we develop links with the local elderly community."

"This year, this will look a little different due to Covid, as instead of inviting members of our elderly community into school for an afternoon tea party, we have made care packages for those who may be isolating, including hand-made crafts and letters. We believe that this develops the values of kindness, respect and collaboration in the children and will hopefully spark a lifelong habit of volunteering and an instinct to support others."

It may not have been the grand opening to the new building that the school had envisaged over the two years of building, but it is safe to say that behind its closed doors, Ponteland Primary School is providing an inspirational and forward thinking curriculum from a world class setting.



Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Well deserved praise for NHS staff and volunteers from grateful Covid vaccine patients in this month's letters...

Efficient, fast, kind and painless: a moving experience

Vaccination: no longer a dreaded word!

Congratulations to everyone involved in making our vaccine visit to Ponteland Primary Care Centre such a moving experience.

It was efficient, fast, kind and the whole procedure was completely painless. Thank you to the volunteers who politely pointed us in the right direction and took care of us whilst we relaxed for 15 minutes afterwards.

Also to the medical staff who administered the jab and answered all our queries. The whole experience lasted 25 minutes.

Well done to those concerned in rolling out the Covid-19 vaccine at such a great pace to protect us all. Here's to the second vaccine and perhaps some normality in our daily lives in the near future.

Ros and Mike Anderson
Runnymede Rd, Ponteland

Big thank you to staff and volunteers administering vaccine

On January 16th we attended at Ponteland Primary Care Centre for our first Covid-19 vaccine.

It was obvious that a great deal of care and planning had gone into the whole exercise. The organisers, managers, medical professionals and volunteers should all be hugely complimented on making the whole experience friendly, stress free and efficient.

We are sure all those who have attended at the Medical Centre would wish to join us and say a great big 'thank you' to all involved.

Derek and Eileen Appleby
Park House Farm
Berwick Hill, Ponteland

Vaccine gives us all a ray of hope

Many of us who have had the Covid jab are very impressed with our GPs in Ponteland and all the staff and volunteers; so quick, efficient and well organised.

Both practices are working together to get as many patients vaccinated asap – all systems go!

Thank you one and all for your dedication, giving up your precious time at weekends so we have hope at the end of a long dark tunnel that we can beat this awful pandemic.

Joan McGowan
Rowan Drive, Ponteland

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April issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the April issue is Thursday March 11th. Door to door distribution will be from Thursday March 25th to Wednesday March 31st. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the April 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.

What's on...

Ponteland U3A

Due to the current situation we cannot meet at St Mary's Church Hall until it is safe to do so. However, using Zoom, we are able to give our monthly talks on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. The next is on Wednesday March 3rd – 'Greggs - from its beginnings to the present day' by Michelle Dobson. Links to these talks, available for members and non-members alike, will be placed in the relevant Ponteland Facebook groups and on the Ponteland U3A website. Our contact number is (01661) 824953.

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. Our next is on Monday March 8th when Phil Kirkland will talk on his subject 'Rail Baltica'. As with our normal meetings, we will welcome senior gentlemen as guests. Enquiries to pontlandsgc@gmail.com.

Virtual talks by Northumberland Archive

Northumberland Archives are being 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, continue with a talk on Thursday March 11th by Senior Archivist Jo March on 'Hidden Histories: Tapping the archives for stories of Black Presence in Northumberland'. To book a place visit eventbrite.co.uk and search for Northumberland Archives.

Wilde Farm Outdoor Market

Wilde Farm's Outdoor Market will be held at Ponteland Memorial Hall from 10am to 2pm on Sunday March 14th and Sunday March 28th. Organisers promise a delicious range of produce from Wilde Farm as well as goodies and gifts from other local businesses. Hot and cold food and drinks will be served. Free entry, dog friendly, pay by phone parking. Visit: wildefarm.co.uk.

Ponteland Local History Society

The Rise of Northumbria, 590-650: a talk tracing Northumbria's journey from a windswept hilltop by the sea to the most

learned kingdom in Europe on Zoom by medieval historian Michael Thomson at 6.30pm on Thursday March 18th. Visitors welcome, for details contact mike@brownzonteland.co.uk

Ponteland Village WI

New members have been welcomed to Ponteland Village WI, despite the lockdown. Monthly meetings are now held via Zoom, with a wide range of talks booked for the winter and spring. A monthly newsletter helps members to stay in touch, find out what's going on in the group and share tips and ideas. Zoom coffee mornings allow members to chat informally and the book club has been meeting monthly for some time. The Cycling for Softies and Walking groups have met when restrictions have allowed. Many friendships have formed since lockdown and the group is proud that members have supported each other so well during the crisis. For updates, email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook - Ponteland Village WI.

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

PONTELAND COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 2019 listings, PCMS is in the top 1% of ALL primary and middle schools in England and under its new name, PCPS, is proud to continue this legacy offering specialist teaching and spacious facilities.

Limited places still available for September 2021 from Nursery (age 3) through to Year 4. Children living in local catchment have a pathway to Ponteland High.

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*"You are the family I miss
having around"*
A new parent.



Public question

A resident raised a question about the Council's plans for the rocky beds on both sides of the bus shelter on Main Street, saying he felt that a total revamp of the beds was necessary. The Mayor stated that the Council's Environment Working Party continued to discuss plans for this area of land of Ponteland. There were high demands on the Council's contractors, however they continued to work hard to keep Ponteland in good order.

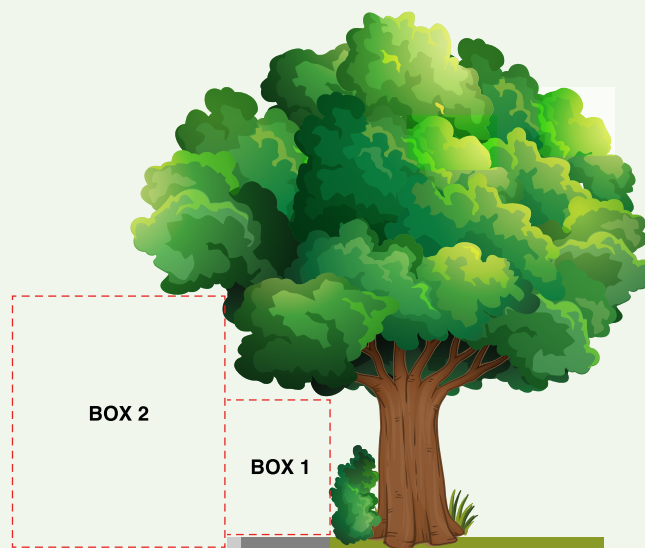
Northumberland County Council Private Sector Housing Strategy 2021-23

A copy of the Strategy had been received by the Town Council for response by February 14th. Comments had been received by Councillors and a draft response had been compiled and circulated for discussion and agreement. The four priority areas included in the document were: increase access to affordable homes in the private sector through bringing empty homes up to date; ensuring a healthy private rented sector through improving the condition, safety and energy efficiency of private sector housing; provide advice and support and take action where necessary for homeowners, landlords and tenants in the private sector; provide services to assist access to sustainable tenancies in the private rented sector. The Town Council was in agreement with the four strategies and made a number of suggestions in relation to each one which were included within the report. A copy of the Council's response can be viewed at ponteland-tc.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council report

Councillor Dodd reported that the County Council would be considering its budget in two weeks. It was envisaged that there would be more spending in the forthcoming year than the current one. Covid-19 impacted on the budget, for example buildings such as leisure centres were empty and unused at present, but there were still significant cost implications involved. The county and the North-East in general are handling the vaccination process extremely well. Councillors commented how well the process was being handled by the medical centre in Ponteland, which should be congratulated on how well organised and straight forward the experience was for those attending. More testing stations are also available in the county. The dashboard on the NCC website showed figures were currently low in Northumberland but this could change very quickly. It appeared that the elections would be taking place in May and staff were busy at the moment making preparations to hold them in a Covid-19 secure way.

This report is based on the minutes of the Town Council meeting held remotely on February 10th.



Hedge and tree clearances from footpaths and roads

BOX1: 2m wide x 2.5m high or 6'6" wide x 8' high

BOX2: Road width x 5.5m high or road width x 18' high

Please maintain your trees and hedges

Ponteland Town Council would again remind residents to cut their hedges and trees back to the profile as shown on the sketch.

There is particular concern that some trees are blocking street lights and the Council is asking all residents to check that their trees are not obscuring lampposts. If they are, please arrange to have branches cut back at the appropriate time.

It is also important to ensure that hedges do not encroach on footways to protect pedestrians. It is the homeowner's responsibility to cut back trees and hedges in accordance with the diagram shown.

Please help your community and do your bit.



Happy snappers sought for Easter challenge

Following the recent success of the 'Step into Christmas' and 'Snowman and Robin Hunt' initiatives, Rotary Ponteland is again offering families the chance to have some fun family time.

Members were determined to come up with an activity that families can take part in during the Easter break whilst properly observing the lockdown rules, and decided on photography.

Rotarian Janet Cusworth explained: "We have organised a photographic competition around five different themes. People can take shots of a landscape scene, some spring flowers, shots of wildlife or a family pet, or simply of their family out for a walk.

"The fifth theme can be done indoors.

Any family member is challenged to construct a model with an Easter theme, for example an Easter egg or an Easter rabbit in Lego or Play-Doh or other material, and then photograph the model.

"We want people of all ages to join in - it doesn't matter if it is grandad with his Pentax camera or five-year-old Jane using her mum's iPhone."

Rotarian John Cooper will be judging the entries, which need to include details of the age if under 18. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in the under-18s and over-18s age groups in each of the five categories.

Rotary Ponteland has thanked local businesses for sponsoring the prizes. They include Goodfellows Estate Agents, Boukay Florists, JBC Management Solutions, Rachel Seller, HR and Business Consultants and David Marshall Construction.

For more details about the photographic competition visit Rotary Ponteland's website at rotaryponteland.org.uk and Facebook page at facebook.com/RotaryPonteland



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New bereavement support service launched

A bereavement support service has been launched by a Newcastle hospice to tackle unprecedented levels of grief amidst social isolation.

Marie Curie has developed the new service in response to the pandemic, but it is available to people throughout the North East who are struggling with their feelings of loss, whether Covid-related or not.

Trained bereavement volunteers will be available to help either over the phone or via a Teams online video call, with a return to meeting in person as soon as this is again possible.

There need not have been any prior contact with the hospice and the service is free.

If you would like to find out more about the service, contact Covid Bereavement Service Co-ordinator Louise Bowen at louise.bowen@mariecurie.org.uk or on 07754 747982. Alternatively you can complete a self-referral form online at mariecurie.org.uk/help/support/bereavement/newcastle-self-referral

Walking website launched

A new website has been launched dedicated to walking routes across Northumberland.

Walking in Northumberland has hundreds of walks to download and print free of charge, books of walks and contact details for all the walking groups in the county.

Walks range from half a mile to 12 miles long, with notes on suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Find the website at walkinginengland.co.uk/northumberland

Thousands of historic records go online

Descriptions of thousands of historic records are now available to view online via the Northumberland Archives online catalogue.

The catalogue contains details of over 400,000 written records held by Northumberland Archives at their Woodhorn and Berwick centres. A further 60,000 records have now had images added to them, which can now also be viewed on the catalogue.

The records include some of the oldest documents held by the service such as manuscripts, maps and plans, photographs and printed collections. To access the online catalogue, go to northumberlandarchives.com/catalogue

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