

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Pharmacy first as chemist
offers Covid jabs

.....
Estate Committee pledges
new approach

.....
Prisoners draw on
inspiration from Pont artist

**Olympic
hopeful Emily
in Tokyo trials**

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Produced by Cian creative pr

Olympic hopeful Emily training for Tokyo

Darras Hall swimmer Emily Large is training for Tokyo as she prepares for trials for the rescheduled 2020 Olympics.

After seven years with Newcastle Swim Team, Emily is now based at British Swimming's national centre in Bath, where she trains ten times a week in the pool and gym as a full time athlete.

She is hoping to add to her tally of medals, which include World Junior Champion (200m butterfly) and European Junior Champion (100 butterfly, 200m butterfly, 4 x 100m medley relay). Emily is also a Commonwealth Games 2018 finalist (200m butterfly), International Swimming League finalist, and is a multiple junior British record holder.

Sponsored by Speedo and Lottery funding from UK Sport, the 20-year-old is competing at the London Olympic Pool during April for a place in Team GB, with 200m butterfly her specialist event.

The return to competition (Emily has taken part in two invitational events in Manchester in February and March) follows a difficult year, as she explained: "I found lockdown a totally different set up to what I'm used to. Usually I'm in the water for 20 hours per week and when this was suddenly stopped I had to find a new way to exercise to ensure I maintained my fitness and strength.

"I found this through doing 40-50km cycles and circuit training six days per week as well as sorting out a makeshift gym in my garage for a couple times per week!"

But Emily said she felt "very grateful" to be alongside her family during the early weeks of the pandemic last year, when she was living in the family home in Darras Road with parents Jenny and Andy and sister Sophia.

"I was then very fortunate to be picked among the initial 32 athletes by British Swimming to begin an elite return to training in Bath last May 2020 for ten weeks, allowing me to return to the water under very strict Covid guidelines and regain my swim specific fitness."



Emily has come a long way since her days at Darras Hall First School: "It's true that I hated water when I was first introduced to it; I would cry every time I was taken into the pool as a young child! However, I very quickly got over this as I progressed through swimming lessons at Ponteland Leisure Centre.

"When I was seven my swimming teacher Ben asked my parents if they had ever considered competitive swimming for me (which they hadn't) as he said I was a good little swimmer, so I went for a trial at Ponteland Swimming Club and the rest is history!

"Long term within swimming I'd like to compete for my country internationally for years to come, performing at the highest of levels and whilst doing this I'd like to inspire the next generation of swimmers to do something similar.

"After swimming, I have no clue what I'm going to do, but you've just got to take each day as it comes and who knows, maybe something will open up for me through the swimming or sponsors!"



Children all geared up for games after launch of new sports hub

Children at Ponteland Community Primary School will be all geared up for games after the creation of new sports facilities.

Three classrooms have been converted to provide new changing rooms with toilets and shower facilities, and there is a new accessible toilet, meeting room, coaches' changing and shower facilities, kitchen and a social room with a viewing platform.

The new Ponteland Academy Sports and Community Hub has been developed in partnership with Ponteland United FC, supported by the Football Foundation.

Other new additions to the school include 250 trees being planted in the school meadow by a professional horticultural company as part of the flood alleviation project, with fundraising underway for crooked workshop cottages, play equipment and games in play areas.

The Year 6 football team celebrates the launch of Ponteland Academy Sports and Community Hub.



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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.

Ponteland pharmacy first in county to offer Covid vaccine

Ponteland patients can get their Covid jab at their local pharmacy after it was chosen as the first in Northumberland to offer the vaccination.

Taylor's Pharmacy is one of only 14 community pharmacies in the North East and Yorkshire region to be selected by Public Health England to administer the first dose from March 22nd.

Anyone who has received an invitation to book an appointment can select the pharmacy via the national booking system.

Owner Jessica Taylor explained how the vaccine will be administered: "We have created three areas within the pharmacy for seating and vaccinations - the consultation room and two booths we have created in the shop area.

"We have employed an extra pharmacist who I will be working full time alongside, and are also very lucky to have been offered support from Simone Sansom, Clinical Director at the Behind the Scenes skincare and beauty clinic in Ponteland - a highly qualified nurse who has already been vaccinating at Newcastle Falcons.

"We have had a few local nurses offered to help us who live locally and our Saturday pharmacy students will also be working extra hours to help us. All the team is really excited



and enthusiastic about this venture and have all offered to do extra days and hours to make sure it works well."

Jessica stressed that the pharmacy can only offer the first dose of the vaccination at present, and anyone who has had their first dose – for example at Ponteland Primary Care Centre – must return there for their second dose when invited as that centre will have been allocated their vaccine supply.

To book your vaccination appointment, visit nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination and select Brewery Lane Pharmacy from the list. DO NOT contact the pharmacy direct to book.

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Please report anti-social behaviour as lockdown is lifted



By PC Tom Ward,
Ponteland Neighbourhood
Police Officer

Anti-social behaviour

We would like to remind our readers to report any concerns you may have, and would like to make reference to recent incidents in and around Ponteland. In recent weeks multiple youths have been engaged with, and appropriate action has been taken regarding, anti-social behaviour. This has included the issuing of relevant fines for Covid-19 breaches, and other warning notices issued to parents where age appropriate. As the weather begins to improve, and restrictions around the current Covid-19 pandemic are eased, we would encourage you to continue to support us by reporting incidents as they happen and with the most accurate information as safely possible.

Robbery at Dobbie's Garden Centre

Police attended a suspected robbery at Dobbies Garden Centre in February. An investigation is ongoing at this time and we would like to thank our community for their continued support.

Introducing Sergeant Tim Mayland

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce our new Neighbourhood Sergeant for the East Tynedale Neighbourhood Policing Team. Sgt Tim Mayland has been added to our team as we say goodbye to Sgt Humble who has taken a position as a detective in a nearby policing team. Sgt Mayland is passionate about addressing issues that are relevant to our rural communities, and has previously worked on our Rural Crime Team targeting those who aim to exploit rural communities. Sgt Mayland said: "Having been part of our dedicated Rural Crime Team I am looking forward to addressing the issues that are personal to you. I am a qualified detective with over 20 years of policing experience. I am looking forward to working with our partners and getting to know our area more."

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 northernprudhoenptmailbox@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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Estate Committee pledges new 'open' approach after election of new members

Darras Hall Estate Committee has pledged a new, open approach to communicating with estate owners after the election of five new committee members.

The committee, which is responsible for the enforcement of the 110-year-old Trust Deed, has come under significant criticism in recent years, often due to a lack of understanding of how far its powers stretch in terms of local development.

It says it now intends to operate in a more transparent

manner. The new committee members – all 14 of whom offer their services on a voluntary basis – include Joint-Chairs David Haley and Scott Savin.

David, pictured, said: "I have lived on Darras Hall since 2004 and love being part of this special community and estate. I am passionate about ensuring that our beautiful estate continues to develop in line with the Byelaws and Trust Deed and continues to be a safe place to live, walk, run and drive for all owners.

"I have worked in senior management, corporate IT and outsourcing for many years and I will look to bring these skills to the

committee. I will be focusing on communications and engagement with the owners and committee. There's a lot of work to do to ensure that the levels of understanding and engagement improve."

Architect Scott, who designed several properties in Darras Hall before moving into the estate in 2017 to build his own home, said he wants to offer his professional expertise and support the local community in the management of the estate.

New initiatives include the launch of a new website, the installation of an information display (outside of the Estate Office), 'meet the committee'



open days, planning/building advice days, a monthly newsletter and a podcast. All owners will be asked if they want to provide their email address to enable regular direct communication

The website can be found at darras-hall.net

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Why a balanced lifestyle always leads to a wonderful life

By David Lamb

Personal fulfilment is the achievement of life goals which are important to you, as an individual. It is what makes you want to go to bed late and get up early.

It could be work, hobbies, family, fun...it doesn't matter, it's what drives you to fulfil your life's goals.

Many people help to identify what will give them personal fulfilment by writing a 'bucket list', which describes all the things they want to do before they 'kick the bucket'.

A study published in 2017 found that people who write down their goals

are more likely to achieve them and psychologists suggest that these lists help connect people to something larger than themselves and lead to a sense of fulfilment when a goal is accomplished.

Daniel Kahneman is an Israeli psychologist and economist who suggests that what people remember from hedonic events are their peaks; if there are no peaks, there are no crisp memories. Bucket lists can help to create crisp memories.

We invite all our clients to complete a bucket list, including target dates and cost estimates. We can then build these into cash flow projections to

help provide the funds to support those ambitions.

Research suggests that people benefit more from experiences than buying material items. I initially disagreed with this, because, if I am going to spend a lot of money on something, I want something to show for it.

Then, within a few weeks, I bought a new car and went on holiday. When I first got the car, I was so careful driving it and extremely cautious where I parked it (we parked so far away from the entrance of Tesco, my wife thought it would be quicker to walk to Asda!) A month later, I was back to driving and parking normally; the novelty had

worn off. But we still talk about the holiday years later.

Remember, though, personal fulfilment should sit comfortably within a balanced lifestyle.

In the 1946 film *It's A Wonderful Life*, George Bailey never achieved anything on his own bucket list but, when reflecting upon his life, realised that because he never let his own ambitions get in the way of other people, his was a wonderful life. Which is why, seven decades later, we still watch the film every Christmas.

A balanced lifestyle leads to a wonderful life...



Artist helps prisoners cope with lockdown confinement

A Ponteland artist has helped tens of thousands of offenders in UK prisons cope with confinement during the long lockdown regime.

Alan Reed has been working alongside his wife Susan and local charity Junction 42 to help provide in cell worship packs for prison chaplaincies in England, Scotland and Wales.

Each pack includes a Worship CD, a "Word for Today" daily devotional, a prayer journal, Psalm 91, scripture art and some coloured pencils.

Alan said: "Prisoners throughout the UK have been spending up to 23-and-a-half hours a day in their cells throughout lockdown. The packs have quickly become a valuable resource to help them endure this difficult time. Junction 42 have now sent out 75,000 packs to the nation's prisons.

"I've also helped to produce several in cell art activities and tutorials which include portraiture, how to paint in watercolour and drawing animals in stages. The feedback from the prisoners has been very positive and encouraging."

Prior to the pandemic, Alan attended a men's prison to teach art one afternoon a week, while Susan would do a day's voluntary work in one of the region's prisons for women. He



also undertook part time work as a job coach, mentoring and supporting ex-offenders who were unemployed.

The Department of Work and Pensions refers men and women who are struggling to find employment because of their convictions to Junction 42, which takes them through an agreed action plan to help them in their job search. This includes CV writing, disclosure letters, mock interviews, voluntary work and community activities to break social isolation.

Alan and Susan hope to reopen their gallery on Cheviot View during April and will update via their website at alanreed.com. For more information about Junction 42's work visit junction42.org.

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Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Farewell thanks as a community partnership folds and a plea to save Darras Hall's unique character in this month's letters...

Partnership thanks residents as it announces closure

Sadly this letter is to notify the residents that Ponteland Community Partnership will be closing at the end of April.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank so many individuals, volunteers and organisations for their support over the past 18 years; without which we could not have achieved so much. Thanks should also be given to the past chairman and committee members for all their contributions and hard work.

This decision has not been taken lightly. But faced with the retirement of the chairman, treasurer and secretary and no nominations for their replacement, lockdown pressures and difficulty accessing funding limiting project opportunities, it has been inevitable.

PCP has signed off with one last final project for the benefit of young people, which has been featured in recent issues of Pont News - the Physical and Mental Wellbeing Youth Project which allocated funds to youth organisations for activities during lockdown.

There have been eight successful applications for grants which have enabled volunteers and teachers to provide experiences and activities now and in the future. What a way to end the community partnership.

As one door closes another will open and hopefully an alternative group of like-minded residents will create and focus on current fresh challenges for the benefit of our local area.

Could this be you?

Alma Dunigan

Chairman, Ponteland Community Partnership

* We will look back at the partnership's 18 years in the May issue.

We need to stop systematic, short-sighted and selfish destruction of our estate

I would like to endorse the letter from Hilary Shaw headed 'Town Council and Estate Committee urged to increase tree cover' (February issue).

Perhaps it has taken a lockdown to make me truly appreciate how fortunate we all are to live in Darras Hall. Our 'Garden City', laid out by our visionary founders over 100 years ago, was created to provide a greener way of living for estate residents.

We are blessed with mature trees and extensive areas of green space, with everyone having at least a quarter acre plot for their homes. The special environment in Darras Hall enables diverse and endangered wildlife to exist around us and enrich our lives.

This cannot be taken for granted. Increasingly, trees, green spaces and even plot sizes are being eroded. Recent planning applications have seen the destruction of huge swathes of woodland area and even preserved trees. All to allow bigger houses to be built to maximise profit.

But at what price? The loss of habitat for our wildlife is devastating and irreversible. We all suffer. Our mental wellbeing and physical health is impacted. Features that make Darras Hall appealing maintain the value of all our houses; the profits for a few developers will result in future financial loss for the majority.

We owe it to future generations to prevent this systematic, short-sighted and selfish destruction. To do nothing will ensure the legacy we leave is a long barren wait for a newly planted tree to mature while we watch the red squirrels and hedgehogs become extinct.

The small acts we do now to save trees and preserve the green spaces around us will be almost incomparable to the massive efforts later required which may perhaps be futile to preserve the wildlife and precious character of our 'Garden City'.

Jane Hodson-Hamilton

Errington Road, Darras Hall

May issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the May issue is Friday April 16th. Door to door distribution will be from Friday April 30th to Thursday May 6th. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the May 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.

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What's on...

Ponteland u3a

Our next monthly talks by Zoom are on Wednesday April 7th at 2pm, when we have 'Turkish Tales (A Turkish Shirley Valentine)' by Jenny Gibbs, and on Wednesday May 5th at 2pm we have 'Audrey Hepburn and Her War Years' by Howard Slater. 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.

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 April 8th by Canon Colin Gough on 'A New Church for Shilbottle'. 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 April 11th and Sunday April 25th. 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 Senior Gentleman's Club

Our next Zoom meeting at 2.30pm on Monday April 12th is by David Butler on the subject of 'Plant hunters' and will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions and to chat. As with our normal meetings, we will welcome senior gentlemen as guests. Enquiries to pontelandsgc@gmail.com.

Ponteland Village WI

There is light at the end of the long Covid tunnel, but there will be limited opportunities for meeting up for some time, so Ponteland Village WI has a variety of activities and opportunities for members. A monthly newsletter helps members to stay in touch, find out what's going on in the group and share tips and ideas. Monthly Zoom speakers are proving interesting and informative. A virtual sewing group meets regularly and virtual coffee mornings allow members to chat informally plus the monthly book club is popular on Zoom. The Cycling for Softies and Walking groups hope to meet again soon when restrictions allow. 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

Beer Festival cancelled for second year

Organisers of the popular Ponteland Beer Festival have announced it will not run for a second successive year due to ongoing lockdown restrictions.

Following the postponement of last April's event, Ponteland Rugby Club attempted to reschedule on three separate occasions.

But the continuing social distancing requirements, together with the required infrastructure resources, have forced another cancellation.

The date for the next Ponteland Beer Festival has been set for the weekend of Friday June 3rd to Sunday June 5th 2022.

Organiser Andy Maidwell said: "This decision has not been taken lightly and has had a devastating impact on club finances. We remain eternally grateful to all of our sponsors and ticketholders for their continued loyalty and support. Further correspondence will be issued nearer the end of the year."



School gets Spring spruce up after Dobbies' donation

Children gave their new school a Spring spruce up after a generous donation from a local garden centre.

Staff and pupils from Richard Coates CE Primary School recently moved to the former Ponteland Primary School site on Thornhill Road, following its relocation to the new schools and leisure complex on Callerton Lane.

They quickly realised that the outside of the school required a splash of colour and contacted Dobbies for help.

The garden centre very kindly donated compost and primroses which pupils planted in tubs just outside the main entrance. Year 5 and 6 children also helped out to tidy up the woodland near the school so that it could be used as the weather improves.

Teaching assistant Kathryn Newman said: "Richard Coates staff and children would like to thank Dobbies for all their support."



A long history of keeping it short.

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A spacious environment to excite and inspire children

Darras Hall Primary moved into its new school building in 2018 and the spaces in and around it have continued to be developed since then.



It is currently in its final building phase, with the demolition of the remaining old school buildings and creation of further sports pitches.

Despite this being the school's third year on the new site, children and staff continue to be excited by the opportunities afforded to them by the internal and external space and facilities.

Darras Hall children have always achieved high standards across a range of areas, but the new building and facilities mean that there really are no limits on what we can do in school.

At our core is a commitment to providing a school curriculum that is relevant to the world in which children live and is progressive and flexible; designed to meet the needs of children today and prepare them for their future.

Our ethos is that learning at all ages should excite and inspire children. By the time children leave us at the end of Year 6, we aim for them to be strong, independent, caring and resilient young people with a love of learning who are confident to ask questions and speak up for what they believe in.

Sport and creative arts are important aspects of life at Darras Hall, enhanced by the facilities and specialist staff. Art and technology activities take place in the wide upper and lower avenue spaces, which are light and spacious and allow children to work freely and without the constraint of a typical classroom. High numbers of children choose to participate in music, dance and drama activities both during and beyond the school day.

PE and extra-curricular sports take place on the sports pitches and the MUGAs, with children receiving specialist coaching in a wide range from in-house staff and Newcastle United Foundation.

Early years and Key Stage 1 classrooms open directly on to the outdoor space which enables staff to take the learning outdoors in all weathers. Younger children regularly visit the school forest, where they work with qualified staff to develop key skills and develop perseverance, persistence and resilience.

After a period of significant change during recent years, the school's future continues to be positive as it continues to evolve; maintaining excellent outcomes and keeping strong relationships and high quality provision at its core.



Fox Covert Lane road closure

Motorists are being advised of a planned road closure for up to three months in Ponteland.

Northumberland County Council is closing the U9082 Fox Covert Lane initially for survey, followed by bridge strengthening works.

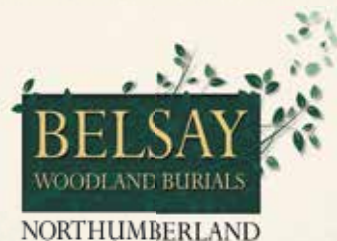
A temporary diversion, which could run until mid-July, will be in place for vehicles. A scaffold walkway will be provided at the downstream side of the bridge to allow pedestrians to gain access to the road either side of the bridge.

For updates visit one.network and sign up to access information.

Have you remembered to apply for a postal vote?

On May 6th there will be elections for the county and town councils and the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner.

Polling stations will be Covid secure, but if you wish to vote by post please complete the application form from the county council and return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope no later than April 19. For any queries email elections@northumberland.gov.uk



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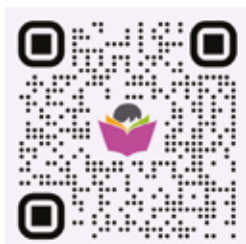


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Abide With Me

By Revd. Captain Paul Allinson, Vicar of Ponteland

Many people, whether or not they are regular churchgoers, used to be able to join in the hymn 'Abide with me' because they knew the words by heart.

It was popular at football matches, at Remembrance Sunday ceremonies, funerals and solemn evening gatherings. Alas, it is not so familiar these days.

Some of those who know the words may be aware that they were written in 1820 by Henry Francis Lyte, Vicar of the fishing village of Lower Brixham in South Devon. It is based on the story of how two followers of the Lord Jesus met him on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the evening of the first Easter Day (See Luke 24:13-35).

After the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, the 11 apostles stayed in the Upper Room in fear and despair. The rest of Jesus followers must have given up hope and returned to their homes in a state of absolute desolation and sorrow, including these two who were heading to their family home in the village of Emmaus. One of the two is called Cleophas, but the other is not named.

The Risen Lord Jesus walked beside them on the road, though they did not recognize him. I wonder how often Jesus walks beside you and me, and we don't realise he is there; anxious to help us understand the things that are distressing us if only we would ask?

Whether it was because these two were walking towards the sunset that they did not see who was beside them, or that their eyes were filled with tears because they were convinced that Jesus was permanently dead that their minds refused to believe their eyes.

Anyway, Jesus began to explain how the Old Testament had predicted that the Saviour, when he came, would be rejected and killed, but would rise again to life. So intrigued were the two by what Jesus said they invited him, a complete stranger as they thought, to come and spend the evening with them. It was probably only a tiny dwelling but they wanted to hear what he had to say. So they uttered the memorable words 'Abide with us' which gave rise to the hymn.



A modern translation could be 'come and spend time with us'. But the resonance of the old words stays in our minds. But that is good, because it reminds us to ask ourselves 'when was the last time I invited the Risen Lord Jesus into my heart and home?' Yes we know in the abstract that he is there always. But it is often not until you deliberately invite him in that you are consciously aware of his presence.

To help us here is a prayer by the seventeenth-century Welsh Poet and Physician Henry Vaughan:

'Abide with us, O most blessed and merciful Saviour, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. As long as thou art present with us, we are in the light. When thou art present all is brightness, all is sweetness. We discourse with thee, watch with thee, live with thee and lie down with thee. Abide then with us, O thou whom our soul loveth, thou Sun of righteousness with healing under thy wings arise in our hearts; make thy light then to shine in darkness as a perfect day in the dead of night. Amen.'

Happy Eastertide to you all.

Easter services

Good Friday

St Mary's, Ponteland 10.30am
A service of the Cross.

Easter Sunday

St Mary's, Ponteland - 10am.
Parish Eucharist.

Holy Saviour, Milbourn - 11.15am.
Parish Eucharist.

Booking by email/phone is required due to limited seating.

St Mary's 10am and Holy Saviour 11.15am Sunday services will resume weekly after Easter Sunday.



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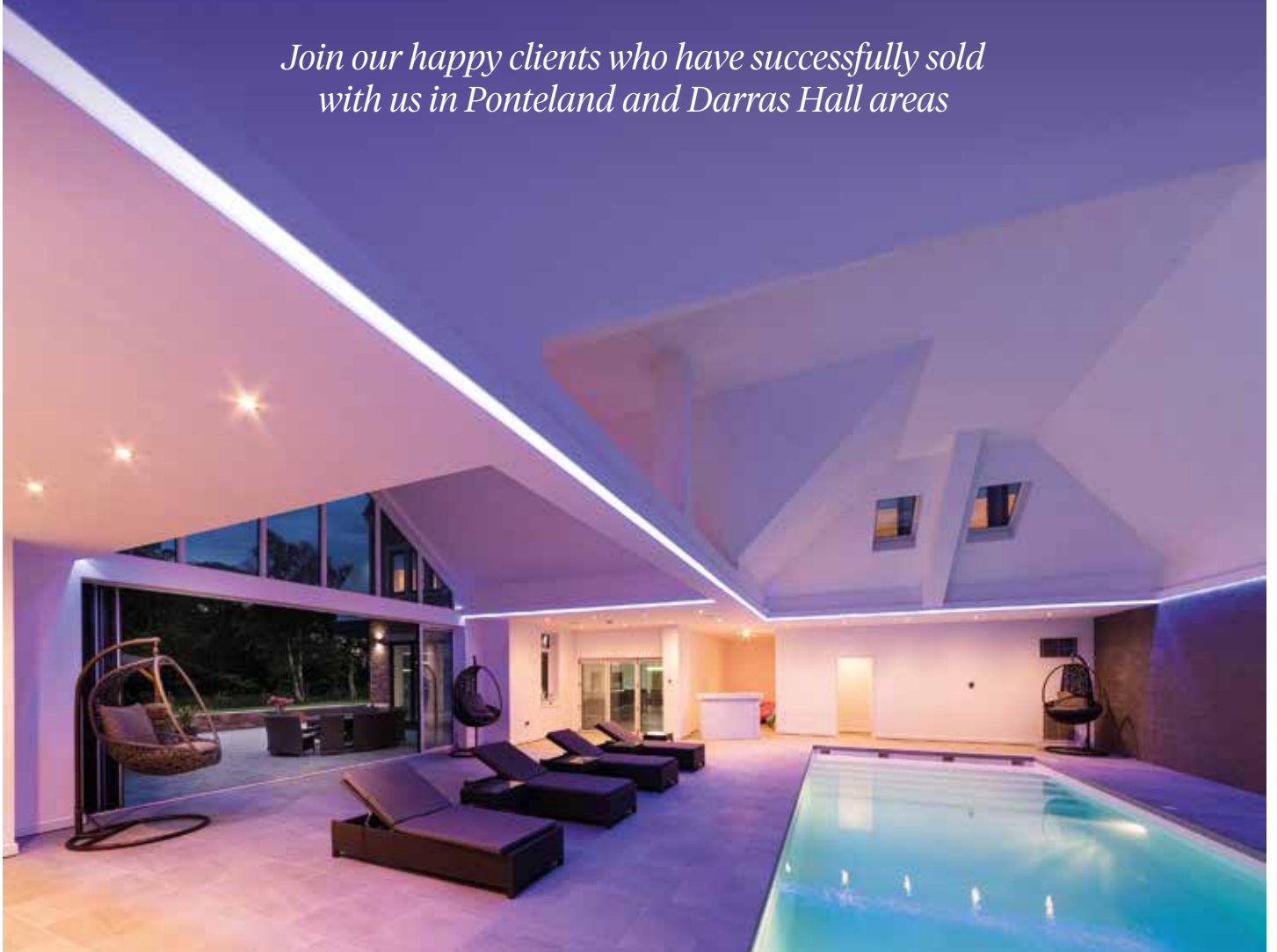
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