

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Devoted couple reunite for
67th wedding anniversary

Police urge reports after "significant
increase" in anti-social behaviour

Full list of county and town
councillors up for election

Derek's decades of community service rewarded

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Devoted couple reunite for 67th wedding anniversary after Covid separation

A devoted Ponteland couple were given a surprise wedding anniversary reunion after social distancing restrictions forced them apart for the first time in 67 years.

Staff at Royal Hampton Care Home, where Jim Scott, 89, has lived since January, arranged for his wife Norma, 86, to join him to celebrate the landmark together after more than two months without seeing each other.

Business Manager Angela Ashcroft said: "They have never been apart in the 67 years that they have been together, but there has been no visiting at the home because of Covid-19 so they haven't seen each other since January.

"But with the restart of our inside visiting, Norma and Jim celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary together, where there were lots of big smiles and a few happy tears. They are still very much in love."

The couple last featured in Pont News in 2014, when they renewed their wedding vows at St Mary's Church to mark their diamond anniversary.

Jim was born in Stakeford in Northumberland and moved to Ponteland when he was 18 months old. He started an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner aged 14 at the builders Hendersons by the Blackbird Inn and also played for Ponteland United.

In 1949, aged 18, he was called up for National Service and was stationed with the RAF in Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Norma was brought up in Choppington, near Stakeford, and was good friends with one of Jim's cousins. The couple met in 1950 at another cousin's 21st birthday party and wrote to each other as Jim continued his RAF service and Norma worked at Woolworths in Morpeth.

After he was demobbed in 1951 the couple continued courting and the following year Jim popped the question. They married at St Paul's Church, Choppington, on March 20th 1954 and honeymooned in Edinburgh.

Sons Ian and Keith followed in 1957 and 1961 and Norma remembers fondly happy family holidays, both caravanning and going abroad.

Jim later worked at HR Atkinsons in the village before setting up family business Scott Bros with his brother in 1971. As the boys grew up Norma took a job at Ponteland sorting office, where she worked for ten years.



Easter events provide competitive interest for all ages

Easter events went ahead despite ongoing social distancing restrictions to give local people of all ages some competitive interest.

More than 50 children and parents took part in the Easter Treasure Trail, run by Ponteland Town Council, held over a week in Ponteland Park.

The Council funded prizes of vouchers for first, second and third places for two age groups – up to six years and seven to 12. All entrants were invited to pick up a chocolate treat from the Town Council offices. Thanks to all those who took part.

Rotary Ponteland ran an Easter charity raffle which raised £500 for Feeding Families UK, a Waitrose nominated regional charity which supplies families with food parcels.

The lucky winner of the first prize, a hamper worth over £100 from Waitrose Ponteland (pictured), was Christine Greenwell. Waitrose also donated £30 and £20 vouchers for the second and third prizes won by Martin Cusworth and Alison Gibb.

Rotary Ponteland also organised a “Happy Snapper” Easter Photographic Competition for children and adults. More than 40 entries were received in five categories and prizes were awarded to adults and children in each.

Judging was performed by professional photographer Melissa Beattie, owner of Ponteland Books. All money raised is being donated to Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.



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

Candidates for town and county council elections named

Elections for town and county councillors for Ponteland's four wards – and the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner – are being held on Thursday May 6th.

There are four seats up for grabs in the Northumberland County Council election and 12 seats available in the Ponteland Town Council election.

In the Town Council elections, the six Conservative Party candidates for the Ponteland East and Ponteland South wards will be elected unopposed.

In the Ponteland North ward, the Labour Party's Simon Railton is the only non Conservative Party candidate for the Town Council. He stands against Conservative Party candidates Richard Dodd, James Ford and Christine Greenwell.

In the Ponteland West ward, the Labour Party's Michael Clarke stands against Conservative Party candidates Christine Caisley, Nimmi Sehgal and Katrina Woodrow.

There are 12 candidates seeking election to the County Council, with the Conservative Party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrats fielding candidates in all four wards.

The full list of candidates for the Northumberland County Council election is as follows:

Ponteland East & Stannington

Lyle Robert Darwin (address in Northumberland) - Conservative Party

David Alan Armstrong, Park Drive, Hepscott Park, Stannington - Liberal Democrats

Robert Hugh Turner (address in Northumberland) - Labour Party

Ponteland North

Richard Dodd, Ogle Hill Head, Belsay - Conservative Party

Mark William Welburn Neale, Kirkwhelpington - Liberal Democrats

Simon Neale Railton (address in Northumberland) - Labour Party

Ponteland South with Heddon

Mike Brown, Woodlands, Ponteland - Labour Party

Peter Alan Bradford Jackson, Edge House, Belsay - Conservative Party

Benjamin Clyde Mitchell, New Ridley Road, Stocksfield - Liberal Democrats

Ponteland West

Michael Patrick Clarke, Western Way, Darras Hall, Ponteland - Labour Party

James McTaggart Greer, Fairfield Crescent, Oakwood, Hexham - Liberal Democrats

Veronica Jones, Wallridge Cottages, Ingoe - Conservative Party.

The full list of candidates for the Ponteland Town Council election is as follows:

Ponteland North

Richard Dodd, Ogle Hill Head, Belsay - Conservative Party

James Ford (address in Northumberland) - Conservative Party

Christine Anne Greenwell, Station Cottages, Ponteland - Conservative Party

Simon Neale Railton (address in Northumberland) - Labour Party

Ponteland East

Lyle Robert Darwin (address in Northumberland) - Conservative Party

Karen Lesley Overbury (address in Northumberland) - Conservative Party

Alan Varley, Elm Rd, Ponteland - Conservative Party

Ponteland South

Sufi Ahmed (address in Northumberland) - Conservative Party

Alan Hall, Linden Way, Darras Hall - Conservative Party

Susan Johnson (address in Northumberland) - Conservative Party

Ponteland West

Christine Hazel Caisley, Main St, Ponteland - Conservative Party

Michael Patrick Clarke, Western Way, Darras Hall, Ponteland - Labour Party

Nimmi Sehgal (address in Northumberland) -

Conservative Party

Katrina Woodrow, The Drey, Darras Hall - Conservative Party.

For more information on the town and county council elections visit: nland.uk/whoisstanding

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner election

The four candidates for the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner election are:

Duncan Carlyle Crute - Conservative Party

Julian Richard Kilburn - Independent

Peter James Maughan - Liberal Democrats

Cara Kim McGuinness - Labour & Co-operative Party

For information on the Police and Crime Commissioner candidates, visit: choosemypcc.org.uk/area/northumbria



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Small group of young people blamed for increase in anti-social behaviour

By PC Tom Ward, Ponteland Neighbourhood Police Officer



On behalf of our team I would like to introduce Police Community Support Officer Hayley Lamb who has joined our team in recent weeks.

PCSO Lamb brings a range of experience, having worked within Northumbria Police in other departments alongside other previous roles in the education sector. She will be working alongside us to tackle issues that are important to you, and to build vital links with yourselves that are the backbone of policing. PCSO Lamb looks forward to meeting you all on patrol!

Rise in anti-social behaviour

Over previous weeks we have seen a significant increase in anti-social behaviour across the area, specifically among the younger members of our community. We are confident that a small number of people are causing such issues, and by no means does this reflect on all young persons across Ponteland.

I would like to reassure our community that our team will continue to be proactive in tackling such issues, and that these measures have included liaison with our local schools and associated services. My advice for our readers is to continue to report relevant issues to police through the prescribed channels as this provides us a complete picture of the problem our community faces.

Our priority remains identifying those involved and taking the necessary action to safeguard our community – an objective we cannot achieve without your support.

Damage to greenhouses in Callerton Lane

Local officers attended an incident of criminal damage to the greenhouses located near to Callerton Lane. This damage included the destruction of numerous windows by rocks being thrown. This has had an impact both emotionally and economically, and without a doubt was a concern given the danger such actions pose in terms of public safety.

Our team is continuing to work with the business owner in order to identify those responsible. I would encourage those who committed the damage to do the right thing and come forward so we might be able to provide the victim some closure.

If you know who was responsible, I would also like to reassure our readers that you can report anonymously by phone (101/999), web submission or through the independent charity Crimestoppers (0800 555 111).

Licensed premises reopening

As we move into phase two of easing lockdown restrictions we have seen the reopening of licensed premises with outdoor facilities. In recent weeks our team has been involved in proactive patrols with a view to engage and work closely with our local businesses. The response from these visits has been very positive, and we are impressed by our businesses who continue to work dynamically with a view to ensuring public safety.

Such joint working will continue going forward, alongside the integration of the Pubwatch scheme into numerous businesses across Ponteland. I would like to encourage our readers to utilise the opening of such facilities in line with government guidance to further ensure the safety of all.

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: northernprudhoe@northumbria.pnn.police.uk.

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[fratelliponteland](https://www.instagram.com/fratelliponteland)

fratelliponteland.co.uk

Well deserved award for committed community champion

Carpenter turned community champion Derek Deans has received a well deserved award from Ponteland Town Council after decades of service to the parish.

The father-of-two has volunteered for the past 35 years with Ponteland Scouts and spent eight years maintaining bridleways and footpaths and litter picking with Ponteland Path Users Group, having previously served five years with the Pele Tower restoration group.

His association with Ponteland Golf Club stretches back to the late 1960s and, having been a young chorister at St Mary's Church, last year he cleaned up the overgrown churchyard paths and pruned trees after seeing a lady struggling to push a wheelchair there.

This followed an earlier project to refurbish the Scout HQ building at the start of the first lockdown which spanned several months.



Derek is pictured receiving the Ponteland Town Council Meritorious Award for 2020-21 from Mayor Alan Varley. Photos by Barry Pells.

Proud wife Gill, who married Derek in 1973, said: "He has found all these projects rewarding and uplifting in these difficult, unprecedented times and has enjoyed the interaction with local people and made many new friends."

Having started his career as a carpenter and joiner with WR Jameson at Kenton Bank Foot before moving to Gateshead Health Authority, Derek retired from the

NHS in 2010 after working at St Mary's Psychiatric Hospital in Stannington then the QE Hospital in Gateshead.

Far from taking it easy, he took advantage of his extra time to qualify as a private pilot – a long held ambition – in 2014. The following year a triple heart bypass temporarily slowed down his pace of life, but not for long, and he made a full recovery. He took to his bike to deliver Metro newspapers to elderly friends as he checked on their wellbeing.

With characteristic generosity, Derek wanted to thank many friends for helping him to help them! They include Michael Taylor, Barry Hirst and all past and present Ponteland Scout Group members, and Rev Capt Paul Allinson and Ponteland Parochial Church Council.

He also thanked the NHS for both his long employment and for saving his life, allowing him to continue with his hobbies and community work well into the future.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Why working past retirement age can be good for you

By David Lamb

My last column looked at personal fulfilment. For many people, work provides a lot of personal fulfilment... if it is the right level of work.

I think there are three levels: a job; a career; and a vocation. However, at the moment many people are having to settle for any job at a time when more than 800,000 have lost theirs as a direct result of Covid.

A job is often quite boring, with workers carrying out specific daily tasks, spending a lot of time clock watching, just waiting for their monthly pay cheque.

A career is much more interesting and requires more commitment. Whilst

important, money is often not a major factor on a day to day level.

From the Latin word vocationem, which means 'calling', a vocation is an occupation that somebody feels strongly about doing, often regardless of pay, because they feel compelled to do so, as it gives a deeper meaning to life.

It is important to consider how work fits into your lifestyle. A job may feel like a drain on time, a career can be a poor influence on emotional health and a vocation needs to be controlled to ensure a balanced lifestyle.

In my hierarchy of lifestyle, health, relationships and

time are all more important than work.

Quite often, when I ask my clients when they would like to retire, the answer is 'tomorrow'. But when I delve a bit deeper, they don't want to get away from work, what they actually want to get away from is the stress created by work.

We also see a lot of people who have retired from work, got bored and gone back to work but not necessarily doing the same job. People often go back to do charity work or driving supermarket delivery vans. No stress, but social interaction and purpose for getting up in the morning two or three days a week.

Stopping work can open up lots of opportunities and give you more time but can leave a big gap, which

many people struggle to fill, especially if theirs was a vocation.

Personally, I think working past normal retirement age is healthy, so long as it is not stressful and I plan to work for as long as I can, but not full-time, because in my experience (non-stressful) work helps to keep you young.

I'll end with a couple of questions for you to ponder on: do you stop doing things because you get old or do you get old because you stop doing things? And have you ever seen a gravestone with the engraving on 'He wished he'd spent more time at work'?

No, me neither. A balanced lifestyle is essential and requires careful planning.



Headteacher's long serving PA joins this year's school leavers

A local headteacher has paid tribute to his long serving PA who has joined this year's school leavers.

Carol Wilson retired from Ponteland High School at Easter after 17 years in her role as the Headteacher's Personal Assistant.

Joining in 2004, she initially supported former head Stephen Prandle, before he retired in 2012 to be replaced by Kieran McGrane.

Carol has been a stalwart in her time at the school and will be known to many parents. She lives in Ponteland with husband Gary, and their girls Lauren and Sarah - who both attended the school - are now forging highly successful careers in law and nursing respectively.

Kieran said: "Carol has been an amazing colleague and friend to me during my time as headteacher. She was the first person I made an arrangement to meet following my appointment and I can



Carol is pictured at her leaving presentation with Headteacher Kieran McGrane.

vividly recall her first words to me. She said 'I might not be the best PA in the world but I'm reliable, work hard and will always do whatever is needed'.

"Carol's humility was clear from the outset but she was also quite wrong in her assessment of her abilities as a PA; she has been everything I could have asked for and much more.

"Carol's defining strength is her wonderful personality and ability to

manage people especially when they may be upset, angry or anxious; many parents will know what I am talking about. She has a knack for putting people at ease, really listening to them and keeping her word when she commits to do something."

Carol leaves the school having seen a lot of recent changes, including the expansion to become an 11-18 secondary school and the move to the new school building. She has been an integral part of the school's Senior Leadership Team and has played her part in making sure these changes have been successful.

Kieran added: "During her last week in post Carol was still looking after others, most notably helping to train and support Clare Barker, who replaces her as the Headteacher's PA. In typical 'Carol-fashion' she has put together detailed notes and advice for Clare to help her adjust to her new role!"

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Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Dogs and hedgehogs feature in this month's letters...

Please help protect these amazing little animals

I have just spotted the first hedgehog of the year in my garden.

Last year by summer up to six of them were visiting every night. It's such a privilege to have them drop by and we are so lucky they are all around Ponteland.

They are so easy to miss as they mostly just come out at dusk. But they are still there and they need our help. 2020 was a good year for them at least as fewer were seen around Ponteland flattened by cars.

However their numbers are generally in steady decline everywhere along with their habitats; every time a hedge is pulled down or a fence is erected that blocks their way.

They are so good for our gardens, demolishing slugs and snails as they move around. There is no need for the slug repellents that so harm hedgehogs when hedgehogs are the best slug and snail repellents ever.

It would be fantastic if people who are interested could help them a little too. I buy small amounts of dried or tinned food from nearby garden centres and put out garden pot bases full of fresh water.

I make sure to leave small gaps in fences for them to squeeze through so their route isn't blocked. If more of us did the same, their numbers could steadily improve.

I used to spot red squirrels in the garden too but haven't seen one for a good few years. I'm hoping hedgehogs won't continue to disappear in the same way. Please help protect this amazing little animal's future in Ponteland by making gardens as friendly to them as possible.

Debbie Inglis
Stonehaugh Way, Darras Hall

Foul behaviour by dog owners putting us at risk

Dogs that foul can have foul, disgusting owners. On Saturday April 2nd I experienced this first hand.

I live at the north end of Thornhill Road and right outside my house on the entrance to my drive an owner let his dog defecate. Let alone me treading in it, my car had to pass over it.

But dog owners also need to be mindful of the increased footfall of children and families due to the new housing at the former police HQ.

It's lovely to see people out and about, but how can one individual put us all at risk? In my eyes this person is incompetent at looking after an animal, let alone themselves.

Jane Haddon
Thornhill Road, Ponteland

June issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the June issue is Monday May 17th. Door to door distribution will be from Monday May 31st to Friday June 4th. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the June 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 May 5th at 2pm, when we have 'Audrey Hepburn and Her War Years' by Howard Slater, and on Wednesday June 2nd when we have a 'Virtual u3a Day'. More details and links to these talks, available for members and non-members alike, will be placed in the relevant Ponteland Facebook groups and on the Pontelandu3a website. We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a - our contact number is (01661) 824953.

Wilde Farm Outdoor Market

Wilde Farm's Outdoor Market will be held at Ponteland Memorial Hall from 10am to 2pm on Sunday May 9th and Sunday May 23rd. 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 May 10th is by Barry Mead on the subject of 'Bothal Observed' 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 Ramblers

Following the easing of lockdown restrictions, Ponteland Ramblers has started organising formal walks again, longer walks every other Sunday and shorter walks on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. As our activities are classified as organised outdoor

sport, we are not subject to the "rule of six", but have, nevertheless decided to limit the number of participants. Booking is, therefore, essential if you wish to join one of these walks and details of forthcoming walks are published on our website at ramblers.org.uk/ponteland. New walkers are welcome to join us.

Ponteland Village WI

Ponteland Village WI Lockdown is easing slowly and members of Ponteland Village WI are busier than ever. The Walking Group has restarted, with teams of six getting together, Cycling for Softies and Walking for Softies have also restarted. The monthly Coffee Club is being held in members' gardens, while the book club and crafts group remain on Zoom. Monthly Zoom speakers are proving interesting, amusing and informative. A monthly newsletter helps members to stay in touch, find out what's going on in the group and share tips and ideas. Membership is booming 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 Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall reopened on April 12th, albeit with restrictions on hirers. The next possible date for hiring rooms at the Hall is Monday May 17th. If you want to start your organisation meetings contact the Hall at info@pontelandmemorialhall.com. Opening with a few restrictions should probably be available from June 21st.



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27th September to 2nd October - 6 days

St Andrews and The Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway

8th to 11th October - 4 days

Turkey & Tinsel in Bridlington & Yorkshire Coast

12th to 15th November - 4 days

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21st to 23rd November - 3 days

Turkey & Tinsel in the Lake District

26th to 28th November - 3 days

Turkey & Tinsel in Dunoon

6th to 10th December - 5 days

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More than three quarters of parents secure first choice primary school

More than three-quarters of parents gained their top choice of Pele Trust primary school for the new reception class intake this September.

First preference of place went to 78 per cent of parents who applied on time, with all parents in Northumberland offered one of their top three preferences.

The trust comprises Ponteland High School and five primary schools – Belsay, Darras Hall, Heddon St Andrews, Ponteland and Richard Coates. All 60 first choice applications for Darras Hall Primary School were granted.

Ponteland Community Primary School (formerly Ponteland Community Middle School) reported a “good response” from parents and was looking forward to opening with a strong class of Reception and Nursery.

Parents who wish to get in touch to query their offers, or ask questions, can email schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk.



Dog festival returns to Kirkley

Organisers of a popular canine event have announced it is to return this September.

The North East Dog Festival will be taking place on the weekend of September 4th to 5th at Northumberland College's specialist animal and land-based training campus Kirkley Hall.

Attractions include the Vets On The Meowve Wellness Tent, which will welcome expert speakers on topics ranging from dog behaviour to first aid.

Three charity dog shows will have classes including 'Most Handsome Dog' and the 'Best Biscuit Catcher' and there will be more than 100 exhibitors and a packed timetable of displays and demonstrations.

To secure your ticket or apply for a trade stand, visit northeastdogfestival.com



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Richard Coates CE Primary School

300 years of success and continuing to prosper

Founded in 1719 by shipbuilder and philanthropist Richard Coates, the school which takes his name prides itself on being one of the oldest in Northumberland.

Over its three centuries it has witnessed great social and educational change, including the accession of 11 monarchs to the throne. That's quite some history for a school that's heavily invested in children's tomorrows!

Although its longevity has been down to its ability to evolve to meet the changing needs of the Ponteland community, parents attribute Richard Coates' Church of England Primary School's success today to the exceptional progress and high academic standards achieved by their children within a nurturing and happy environment.

In 2017, Richard Coates changed its age range to that of a primary school, welcoming children from the ages of three to 11 years, as part of the restructure of schools across Ponteland.

This successful change was noted by Ofsted in 2018, who stated: "This is a very happy school. Its ethos is inclusive, it cares about all aspects of its pupils' development and it puts its pupils and children at the centre of everything that it does."

The school motto 'Let your light shine' is a mark of the school's commitment to ensure each and every child has the opportunity to shine bright during their primary years.

Richard Coates CE Primary School is founded on the Christian values of love, respect and friendship. Being a church school means children are valued as individuals and they are nurtured to develop as generous, courteous and caring young people with a strong sense of moral purpose. The school has close links with St Mary's Church in Ponteland and the Newcastle Diocese.

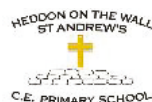
Open Day Play Sessions

If you would like to know more about the school, or if you are interested in applying for a place for your child now or in the future, why not come and join them for one of the Open Day Play Sessions:

Thursday June 17th - 3.45pm to 5.15pm

Saturday June 26th - 10am to 11.30am.

Please let us know if you would like to book a place by calling 01661 823167.



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Partnership signs off after 18 years with final grant awards

A voluntary group has signed off with its final grant awards after 18 years serving the parish.

Ponteland Community Partnership has awarded funds from its Physical and Wellbeing Youth Project to volunteers and teachers at two local schools and three youth organisations to help arrange outdoor activities after months of lockdown restrictions.

They include some day hikes which are already being planned by Ponteland Scouts, and follow the purchase of tents for the group and donations to the 4th Ponteland Brownies, Castleward Rangers and Darras Hall Primary School for other activities.

Alma Dunigan, outgoing Chairman of Ponteland Community Partnership, said: "We are delighted to have supported two schools and three youth organisations as part of the Physical and Mental Wellbeing Youth Project which started last September.

"This has turned into a fantastic project to benefit potentially over 1,700 local young people, with the funds helping volunteers and teachers to plan and implement new activities either via Zoom or as soon as the regulations allow in a more normal way.

"These activities for ages seven to 18 range from sport and recreation, art and crafts, science, technology, engineering and maths - all presented in a fun way."

Partnership history and achievements

The Community Partnership stemmed from the Local Government Act 2000. It encouraged local authorities to establish Local Strategic Partnerships which allowed residents, businesses, voluntary and community organisations to work together to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their area.

The Community Partnership was a non political and non profit making organisation; all members were volunteers who gave up their time to support its aims and all of its activities were funded by grants and donations in money or kind.

Four residents set up and launched PCP in 2003 - Alma Dunigan, Colin French, Frank Harrington and Colin Scott. Kevin



MP Guy Opperman is pictured with Northumberland county councillor Veronica Jones and Alma Dunigan at the launch of the information pedestals on Ponteland Bridleway.

Flaherty was the first chairman, followed by Brian Prickett and then Mrs Dunigan.

Just some of the many key achievements have included:

- The launch of Pont News & Views in partnership with the then Ponteland Parish Council in 2005.
- Raising more than £100,000 for the former play park and skate park on Callerton Lane.
- Assisting Ponteland Bowling Club's grant application for £30,000 towards clubhouse extension.
- Helping other organisations to raise funds of £56,500 for other projects from 2005 to 2007.
- Securing funds to install five educational information pedestals depicting the social history of the railway line, Ponteland Station and rail workers, ICI Explosive Depot, Prestwick Pit and natural environment along Ponteland Bridleway along with "step counts".

- Receiving Highly Commended best urban project for the Old Railway Line - Love Northumberland Award 2018.
- Healthy Lifestyle Initiative - a six month drop in pilot scheme checking weight and blood pressure open to residents and Ponteland workers.
- Creating a Darras Hall Grasslands SSSI Educational Information Pedestal to celebrate a special area of scientific interest - a little known green oasis in the estate.

Ponteland's MP Guy Opperman paid tribute to the partnership's hard work and many achievements. He said: "Ponteland Community Partnership has been a wonderful hub for many brilliant local projects over nearly two decades.

"I would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time and skills to support the many great community projects which have made a real difference in people's lives. The sad news of the closing of the Partnership is only softened in the knowledge that the positive legacy it is leaving will continue on for many years to come."

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