

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



Developers report mixed
response to 65-home plan

Farewell to cheerful
charity champ

Inspector calls for retention
of Prestwick Pit Green Belt

Magic addition to school meadow

Thinking of retiring? Unsure of your options?

Speak to
a pensions
expert



independent
financial
advisers

For your free initial consultation
give us a call on **(01661) 821110** or
email us at **enquiries@cfs-ifa.co.uk**

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

Serving the Ponteland community since 1996.

**Kip
McGrath™**
EDUCATIONCENTRES

**ONLINE
TUTORING
NOW AVAILABLE**



Primary • Secondary • Qualified Teachers • Personalised Learning

✓English ✓Maths ✓Reading ✓Spelling ✓Comprehension

Book a free online assessment today

Kip McGrath - Newburn and Westerhope

Tel: 0191 4355 274

kipmcgrath.co.uk/newburn-and-westerhope

Belsay Woodland Burials Now Available



STRETTLÉ

FOR A COMPLETE
FUNERAL & MEMORIAL
SERVICE

- Funeral arrangements for cremation or burial - Religious or Humanist from £2650 inclusive
- 'Pre-need' funeral and memorial plans from £2899
- Advice on grave purchase - traditional or woodland
- Memorials in stone, marble, slate and granite - traditional or bespoke from £390 inclusive
- Memorial renovation, additional inscriptions etc.
- Statuary, vases, plaques and 'tomblets' - the remarkable miniature home memorial
- Memorial stone valuation/insurance
- Sympathy and funeral floral tributes

Office, Showroom and Chapels of Rest at:
15 West Road, Ponteland Tel: 01661 822015
450 West Road, Newcastle Tel: 0191 274 2471

24HR ENQUIRY LINE
(0191) 252 8222

**FULLY FITTED
ROLLER
GARAGE
DOORS**

FROM **£895*** WAS **£1,354**
INC VAT

* Offer Valid For Openings Up To 2.4m Wide & Int:
2 Remote Controls, 55mm White Slats,
Internal Manual Override

WHATS INCLUDED:

- ACOUSTIC & THERMAL INSULATION
- TWO REMOTE CONTROLS
- EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING
- 24 COLOURS AVAILABLE

**Made To Measure...
ROLLER GARAGE DOORS**

Garolla can save a lot of space inside your garage. Rolls up vertically into a box. Takes only 8 inches of head-room! Opens vertically so you can park up close to the door. Remotely open/close the garage even from inside your car.

CALL US TODAY
Phone:
0191 394 0076
Mobile:
07537 149 128

GAROLLA
ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS
www.garolla.co.uk

CE Approved



Children welcome willow dragon to school meadow

Children at a Ponteland school have welcomed a new addition to their meadow – Feisty the Willow Dragon.

The early years pupils at Ponteland Community Primary School have worked hard to plant red, yellow, green and black willow whips to complete the living installation, made by Tynedale willow artist Ruth Thompson of Sylvan Skills.

The work was funded by the Veteran Tree Project, which is supported by Kirkley Hall and includes creating willow designs and a community legacy.

Headteacher Caroline Pryer said Feisty has inspired the children to draw their own pictures, sing dragon songs and ask class mates what they like about the new dragon.



Charity champ Bruce dies, aged 94

A Ponteland charity champion who became a regular sight with his collection tin at the region's shopping centres has died aged 94.

Bruce Grant began fundraising in 2010 through church and built momentum at his favoured spots in Ponteland, Morpeth, Hexham, Kingston Park and Eldon Square in Newcastle.

He raised more than £100,000 for good causes over the following decade, including Newcastle People's Kitchen, West End Food Bank, West End Refugee Service, Benwell Cornerstone Project, Children North East, Percy Hedley Foundation and the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

In 2019 Bruce was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his work with Pont Charity Group.

He made his final donations of £750 each to Tynedale Hospice at Home and The Royal Society for Blind Children last year from the proceeds of his book 'Flying by the seat of my pants', which sold out. The former engineer described the autobiography on his eventful life on land, air and sea as 'a collection of tales from boyhood, life at sea and in industry'.

Hailing from Glenlivet in the Scottish Highlands, Bruce was married to wife Wilma for nearly 60 years and they had two children – Linda and Ewan. The family moved to Ponteland in 1968.

He also had five grandchildren and one great-grandson who was named after him – Alfie Bruce Bell, who had his first birthday on June 22nd.

Bruce, of Old Station Court, Darras Hall, spent his last five

months living at Ponteland Manor care home and considered himself very fortunate to be looked after and cared for. He passed away peacefully in his sleep there in the early hours of Sunday June 13th.

Speaking to Pont News last year, he said: "I was collecting for charity seven-days-a-week in all weathers...but that is now too much for me.

"I will be doing a little bit less but still getting out when I can to fundraise, and hopefully the weather will be good. I'm well aware that some people have fundraised a lot longer than I have and spent more time doing it, but I've not done too badly.

"It is my birthday on Boxing Day and that will probably be about it for me and my collecting, although I have been invited to Buckingham Palace."

Sadly due to a combination of Covid and ill health, Bruce never got his well deserved day at the Palace.

His funeral service was held at West Road Crematorium in Newcastle on June 25th.



fratelli bar



Indoor and alfresco drinks

SUNDAY - THURSDAY: 12PM - 10PM

FRIDAY - SUNDAY: 12PM - 11PM

last booking 1 hour before closing

BOOK ONLINE

www.fratelliponteland.co.uk



GREYSTOKE

PONTELAND, NORTHUMBERLAND

An exclusive location with an outstanding
collection of family homes

Launching 10th July 2021



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY

www.cussins.com | 01665 600800 or 07717 574236 | susan.shanley@cussins.com



Mixed response to 65-home plan for Western Way

Plans for a 65-home development on Green Belt at the southern tip of Darras Hall have received a mixed response from local residents.

Housing association Karbon Homes, architect IDPartnership and builder Esh Living say they would provide a wide range of housing including affordable family homes, starter homes and bungalows near the junction of Western Way and Stamfordham Road.

The scheme includes ten two bedroom bungalows, 24 three bedroom homes, seven two bedroom homes and 24 two bedroom apartments suitable for retirement living.

An initial public consultation has now ended, which generated representations from 78 members of the public.

A spokesman for Esh Living

said: "Overall, there has been a well-balanced view from the local community with a range of comments being made.

"Naturally, there are objectors to the proposed scheme, but it is important to highlight there are also a good number of supporters who recognise the benefits that the development can bring to the area in terms of affordable housing provision, meeting a variety of local housing needs and local job creation.

"The objections received have related principally to the loss of Green Belt land and changes to the landscape, and the impact on the local highway network resulting from additional vehicles.

"In contrast, supporters of the project have highlighted the need to diversify the existing housing offer in Ponteland and have stressed the importance of providing a range of house types to better suit the needs of those

in the local community who currently cannot get access to a new home.

"The provision of a variety of house types within the proposed scheme has been welcomed by supporters while the economic investment and job creation during the construction process have also been recognised as being of benefit to the local area."

The plot for the proposed development sits outside of the boundary for the Darras Hall Estate byelaws. Esh said they wanted to offer young people the chance to get on the property ladder through rent to buy and shared ownership, and also offer homes for older people who may want to downsize and continue to live independently.

News of the plans, revealed in last month's Pont News, generated a vigorous debate on local social media groups between those in favour

of the scheme and those against.

Laura Devaney, Head of Land and Partnerships at Esh Living, thanked those who had taken part in the initial consultation.

She said: "In normal circumstances, the consultation process would be held in a local community venue, where those wishing to have their say could visit and liaise with Esh and its partners directly.

"We really appreciate that people have taken the time to go onto the website and we are pleased by a healthy level of feedback, which was considered prior to us submitting our outline planning application."

An outline planning application was lodged with Northumberland County Council on June 11th. Further updates on the planning process will be posted at westernwayhomes.com



Comments invited on plans to retain four hectares of Green Belt at Prestwick Pit

A proposal to release four hectares of land from Green Belt near Prestwick for employment use looks set to be reversed after a Government planning inspector said it could not be justified.

Northumberland County Council proposed 5.5 hectares of Green Belt land was allocated and four hectares was safeguarded for employment at the other side of the airport from Prestwick village in the Publication Draft of its Local Plan in January 2019.

Public examination hearings into the planning blueprint for the county for the next 15 years took place during 2019 and 2020. The inspector Susan Heywood wrote to the county council in February to outline her findings, concluding that the Local Plan could likely be made 'sound' with a series of agreed modifications.

They include reinstatement of the four hectares at Prestwick Pit to the Green Belt and substantial planting along the boundaries between the Green Belt and the employment sites to be released at

Prestwick Park and Prestwick Pit.

The inspector said there was "no current evidence" of a need for the land earmarked as safeguarded to be released from the Green Belt for employment use.

The feasibility of a linked proposal for future relocation of the Meadowfield industrial estate in Ponteland to Prestwick Pit to enable a mixed use development including housing at the Meadowfield site was also not demonstrated, she added.

Ms Heywood wrote: "I have concluded that exceptional circumstances do not exist for the removal from the Green Belt, and allocation for safeguarded land, of the site at Prestwick Pit."

Members of the public are being invited to comment on the proposed

modifications during an eight week consultation period running until August 4th. The inspector will then take account of the responses to this consultation before reaching her final conclusions.

This consultation is expected to be the final stage before the Local Plan can be formally adopted.

Coun Colin Horncastle, cabinet member responsible for planning, said: "We look forward to getting the plan finalised and adopted, and for it to begin to drive the sort of future that we want for Northumberland."

Comments are invited on the main modifications only using the form provided at northumberland.gov.uk/localplan, by email to planningstrategy@northumberland.gov.uk or by post to Planning Strategy, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

How good would you feel if you didn't need to worry about money?

By David Lamb

In last month's column I explained why fun and recreation is much more important than work. The next component of lifestyle after fun and recreation is financial independence.

This can be described as having enough income to pay for your living expenses for the rest of your life without having to work or be dependent on others or a business.

At first this may sound quite difficult and daunting to achieve, but we have never had a client come through our doors who we haven't been able to tell 'do a couple of things to achieve financial independence'. It is easy!

All you need to do is:

1. Sell everything. Your house, your car, contents, everything! Turn all you have into cash.
2. Move to Malawi. Malawi is a generally peaceful country that has had stable governments since gaining

independence from Britain in 1964. The total cost of living for two people, with average consumption, for one month is \$705 (£546). The average salary for an accountant is just \$14,166 (£10,981) but you will probably be the richest family in your new village and will never worry about money again!

But you may not have the lifestyle that you want...

Many people are under the misunderstanding that to achieve financial independence, they need as much money as possible. Unfortunately, we have seen many clients who continue to work long after they could have retired.

I don't think it is a bad idea to work past retirement, so long as it is enjoyable and is keeping you young. But working unnecessarily often means that this is at the detriment of your health, relationships and time spending the things you want to do.

Understanding your lifestyle (enjoying the good parts and being able to identify areas for improvement to give you more balance) should be at the heart of financial planning.

When you have identified the lifestyle that you want, you can then work out how much this will cost. When you have done this, using cash flow modelling, a financial planner can then calculate how much is enough (to give you the lifestyle that you want without the fear of running out of money, whatever happens).

In my experience, this is quite often a lot less than people would imagine. Financial independence may be a lot closer than you think. You just need to know how much is enough and then create a simple, realistic, and reasoned plan to get you there.

How good would you feel if you didn't need to worry about money?



Mobile breast screening unit based at Dobbies

A mobile breast screening unit will be based at Dobbies Garden Centre for the next four months where all women aged between 50 and 70 in Ponteland will be invited to book a mammogram.

The unit will be open in the coach park for appointments from 9.25am to 4.25pm, Monday to Friday.

All women over the age of 70 won't receive an automatic written invitation, but are being encouraged to self-refer by contacting Newcastle Breast Screening Service on 0191 282 0202.

One in seven women will receive a breast cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. The aim of the breast screening programme is to detect and treat breast cancer at an early stage, reducing mortality.

There will be alternative locations offered for the screening appointment and Covid safety measures will apply.



Rotarians raise £9,500 for good causes

Rotary Ponteland has raised more than £9,500 over the past 15 months for worthy causes despite the restrictions caused by Covid.

It has been a really tough year for charities but the club has continued to hold a number of virtual fundraising and community events.

Rotary Ponteland has made donations to 18 charities and good causes, including £2,000 to local

primary schools for environmental projects, £1,200 to Dragonfly Cancer Trust and £500 to Tynedale Hospice.

A further £250 was donated to a different charity each month chosen by club members, including the Great North Air Ambulance and Northumbria Blood Bikes.

Incoming President Archie McGlynn said: "With generosity in the community like this, I am sure we can look forward to an excellent year ahead, as restrictions are gradually relaxed, and we are able to hold our popular fundraising events."

Want the best lawn ever?

SAVE UP TO
25%

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

Prices from
£15*
per treatment



Who are GreenThumb:

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

What we do:

Our lawn care experts apply bespoke, seasonal treatments to keep your lawn continually nourished and weed free. Whatever the size or condition, we ensure that every lawn receives the love and attention it deserves
Find out more and visit greenthumb.co.uk/treatments



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

*Based on a lawn size up to 40m²

greenthumb.co.uk



STONE BRIDGE



Darras Hall - Autumn 2019



Warkworth - Spring 2019



Darras Hall - Summer 2019

Simply beautiful
kitchens & bathrooms

19 Main St, Ponteland, NE20 9NH
info@stonebridgeinteriors.com
01661 520251

stonebridgeinteriors.com



Darras Hall - Autumn 2019

Your letters

The Editor
Pont News & Views



An objection to plans for 65 homes and an appeal to look out for hedgehogs in this month's letters...

“Wholly inappropriate” location for supported housing

The proposal is to build 65 flats/houses on a site off Western Way ten metres from the Birney Hill Lugano site for which planning permission was refused by the Secretary of State.

The proposed Karbon Homes' sprawl towards Newcastle/Heddon-on-the-Wall/Medburn is more damaging now than at the time of the rejected Lugano project because of Newcastle City's relentless sprawl towards Darras Hall/Ponteland.

Karbon Homes' Strategy 2018 - 2023 on their website says that they provide flats and houses for social rent to financially vulnerable customers, low-waged working families and specialised supported housing for customers with support needs (e.g. people with disabilities and mental health issues).

A maximum of 25 per cent of Karbon Homes properties can be sold, with the proceeds used to build more social housing

Some customers are elderly. These customers are likely to need good access to amenities, infrastructure and services e.g. public transport, social services, health provision, schools and/or nurseries. The site chosen by Karbon has none of these.

The nearest GP/Post Office/Paypoint/primary school is well over a mile away. The nearest shop (other than snacks at a petrol filling station with very limited opening hours) is well over a mile away and steeply uphill when carrying shopping home.

The site is served by an extremely infrequent bus service; there are four buses per weekday to Hexham (51 minutes). There are four buses per weekday to Ponteland. On weekdays there are no buses to Ponteland between 7.45am and 10.54am. The last bus from Ponteland is 6.02pm. There are three additional buses on Saturdays (two of them late evening subsidised by Ponteland Town Council). There are no buses at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Housing people with physical disabilities, mental health issues and financial vulnerabilities in such an isolated place is wholly inappropriate because it is unlikely that additional resources will be available to meet their needs. The proposal is therefore unsustainable.

The Secretary of State recognised this isolation when he refused planning permission on Birney Hill Farm (adjacent to the proposed Karbon Homes Social Housing - see Application Ref: 13/00132/OUT) because “accessibility to services and facilities is relatively poor”.

The Secretary of State also said “whatever the quality of the design...is hampered by two outside influences - the inevitable lack of connectivity with Darras Hall and noise from aircraft taking off from or landing at Newcastle International Airport”.

It is not clear why Karbon Homes believes a location that is too

isolated and noisy for executive homes (likely to have extremely high car ownership) is suitable to house people with mental health issues, physical disabilities and financial vulnerability.

M Quinn

Western Way, Darras Hall

We need to do more to protect hedgehogs

Early yesterday evening, a neighbour found a sick hedgehog on her neighbour's driveway.

I took it under my wing and phoned around some hedgehog rescue centres for help. I was eventually put in touch with a lovely lady, who came a long way to retrieve this poorly little thing and who, it transpires, was riddled with two types of parasites, one of them dangerous. Hopefully she will pull through!

I learned so much more about hedgehogs from this lady, but it was also an eye opener as to the love, care and tireless work these volunteers put in to ensure our beautiful hedgehogs don't go extinct; it can be a 24/7 job over many months!

Hedgehogs are in great danger, not just because of cars/traffic, but also because of poisons/pesticides/chemicals, losing habitation to building works and roads, slug pellets that we put down in our gardens and even starvation.

Where I live in a cul-de-sac, cars speed. In fact, as I was carrying this hedgehog back to my house, a young lad in a car came flying up the street. Even a child wouldn't stand a chance!

I've seen so many dead hedgehogs on our roads round Ponteland/Darras Hall, but being up close and personal with these gorgeous, cute little creatures has really touched my heart to do more, and especially on hearing they are in danger of extinction.

We definitely need to do more to protect these beautiful little animals and support those volunteers and hospitals who work tirelessly to save them.

Karman Johnstone

Eland Edge, Ponteland

Remove these barriers to progress

Is there any way that the ugly pointless barriers at various parts of the bridleway can be removed or at least widened?

It's so annoying when riding along the path on your bike to have to stop and shimmy and squeeze your way around them!

Why do we need them? Even buggies struggle to get through. Just get rid!

P Gibson

Burnside, Darras Hall

Thanks to passers-by and paramedics for help after bike fall

Just after midday on Saturday May 29th I fell from my road bike in Fox Covert Lane, Ponteland.

I am back home recovering from a broken hip and operation to fit a metal plate.

Whilst lying at the roadside, my spirits and hope were kept up by the number of concerned people who stopped to offer assistance to my wife and I. Several of them offered to drive me to hospital (though it was best to await the ambulance).

Paramedics and NHS staff, despite their traumatic, busy year, were as always superb. A small yet memorable example of the good and human kindness people show; my sincere thanks and good wishes to them all.

Stewart Hamilton

Parklands, Ponteland

August issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the August issue is Monday July 19th. Door to door distribution will be from Monday August 2nd to Friday August 6th. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the August issue. Please visit ponteland-tc.gov.uk/pont-news-and-views for online issues and all updates.

Letters on all issues are welcomed by Pont News & Views but the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher. The Editor reserves the right to amend any submitted letters for legal or other reasons.

All letters submitted should include the writer's name and address.

What's on...

Ponteland u3a

Our next two talks will be: Wednesday July 7th at 2pm – Behind the Bathroom Door (Hygiene Through the Ages) by Liza Jones on Zoom; Wednesday August 4th at 2pm – Pine Ridge Indian Reservation - South Dakota by John W. Pattison at St Mary's Parish Centre (hopefully, but awaiting Covid decisions) otherwise on Zoom. Links to the Zoom talk will be placed on the website and Facebook group. We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a. Please call the membership secretary on 01661 824953. Hopefully it won't be long before we are back to near normality.

Wilde Farm Outdoor Market

Wilde Farm's Outdoor Market will be held at Ponteland Memorial Hall from 10am to 2pm on Sunday July 11th and Sunday July 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 Village WI

Ponteland Village WI is hoping to meet again in the autumn, but until then members can keep busy, with

lots of opportunities to meet up in small groups and via Zoom. The Walking Group, Cycling for Softies and Walking for Softies have 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 fascinating and informative. A monthly newsletter helps members to find out what's going on and to share ideas. Membership is booming. To find out more, email pontelandvillagewi@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook - Ponteland Village WI.

Rotary Ponteland

Rotarians in Ponteland are holding their meetings via Zoom every two weeks on a Tuesday morning. The group organises many local events raising much needed funds for local charities. For more information visit rotaryponteland.org.uk or email info@rotaryponteland.org.uk

Duck Races

One for the diary...the Ponteland Duck Race event is scheduled to return on the afternoon of Sunday September 5th after being forced to go virtual last year. For more information in the run up to the event visit rotaryponteland.org.uk and their Facebook page.

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.

01661 824853

admin@ponteland.academy
www.ponteland.academy



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

Rotarians and members of public join forces for their largest ever litter pick

The largest ever litter pick organised by Rotary Ponteland took place on Sunday June 13th.

A band of 20 volunteers from Rotary Ponteland and the local community covered eight areas over morning and afternoon sessions.

Previous litter picks centred on Rotary Way and the bridleway from the Airport to Callerton Lane but this time round the clean-up area was increased to include the new diverted footpath around the back of the Primary School, the footpath from Eland Hall to Prestwick Carr and the Dinnington Road from Prestwick Cemetery to Prestwick Green.

Ponteland Town Council once again supported the event by providing the litter pick rods, sacks and protective equipment and also organised additional wheelie bins to be placed and collected.

Ponteland residents, including a large number of family groups, also helped at a litter pick in the heart of Ponteland, the park and nearby streets on June 5th, one of the regular litter picks organised by the Town Council.

Mayor Coun Christine Greenwell said: "It is wonderful to see people helping in this way and taking such a pride in Ponteland."



Another Rotary litter pick event is planned for the autumn. If you are interested in taking part email info@rotaryponteland.org.uk



Ponteland dental practice crowned Team of the Year

Staff at a Ponteland dental practice are all smiles after they were named Dental Team of the Year at the national Dental Awards 2021.

It is the second time in three years Honour Health in Bell Villas has won the prestigious title, having also been awarded Practice of the Year in 2020.

Principal dentist Dr Onkar Dhanoya has been at the helm of Honour Health for 35 years, opening the first of his three practices in Stanley in 1986, followed by Jesmond in 2001 and Ponteland in 2015.

He described the latest award as "a fantastic accolade for our staff" at a time of unprecedented challenges during Covid.

New website brings history to life for pupils

Schoolchildren across Northumberland will now be able to view a range of important archives online thanks to a new website.

The Learning and Educational Archives Resources from Northumberland (LEARN) website has been developed by Northumberland Archives, thanks to a £5,000 grant from The National Archives.

The digital learning platform was developed with the help of nine schools in the county who were part of a pilot scheme to test the site and develop content.

Created using documents from the archives the platform focuses on archives relating to four themes: Crime & Punishment; Victorians; World War I and World War II.

Each theme includes suggested resources, lesson plans and activities for teachers to download and use in class. The project is aimed at Key Stage 2 to life-long learners.

There is also an option for users to upload their own resources, including examples of students' work and lessons plans as inspiration for others.

Sue Wood, Head of Archives said: "This has been a first for the archives team to work collaboratively with schools to create something which can help bring history to life for teachers and learners."

To find out more, visit www.northumberlandarchives.com/learn



Belsay Primary School

A secure and happy environment for successful, creative and independent learners

At Belsay School we believe that every child is unique and has a range of gifts and talents to be nurtured and celebrated.

The curriculum is tailored to be responsive to the needs and interests of the children so that it provides the best possible educational experience.

We encourage the children to become self-motivated learners and confident individuals by: Aiming High, Working Together and Achieving Excellence.

Belsay is a secure and happy environment where children are successful, creative and independent learners. In addition to academic subjects, we have a strong focus on forest school, outdoor activities and developing resilience.

This has a positive impact upon children's learning whilst at Belsay and also the next phase in their education and ultimately employment.

We have extensive grounds, an invention shed and a school garden which is used by each class for outdoor learning, additional design technology work and scientific investigation.

We have a strong School Council which organises fundraising events and puts forward their own ideas for school improvements. Our Eco Team is working towards the Silver Award and has recently instigated a composting project across the school.

We inspire and nurture aspirations, encouraging children to be an integral part of their local community whilst widening their horizons through educational visits to local, contrasting and city areas including our linked school in Byker.



We cherish our rural school and also recognise that we make valuable contributions to both the school and the wider community including our Partnership of local schools.

Belsay Day Care is an independent charity, situated on our school grounds, which complements the work of the school by providing Pre-School for 2+ year olds (9am to 3pm), Breakfast Club from 8am and Out Of School Club until 6pm.

We believe that children should be excited and inspired by the activities in school, enabling them to be inquisitive, curious and enthusiastic learners, to ask questions and try their hardest at everything they do, whilst becoming caring, considerate and independent with a respect for others and a sense of responsibility for their own behaviour.

We welcome visits to the school.
Please contact us on 01661 881641.



Duck Race returns after virtual experience

One of Ponteland's most popular annual events returns to Ponteland Park in September.

After being forced to go virtual in 2020 the Rotary Ponteland ducks will once again be set free on the river on the afternoon of Sunday September 5th.

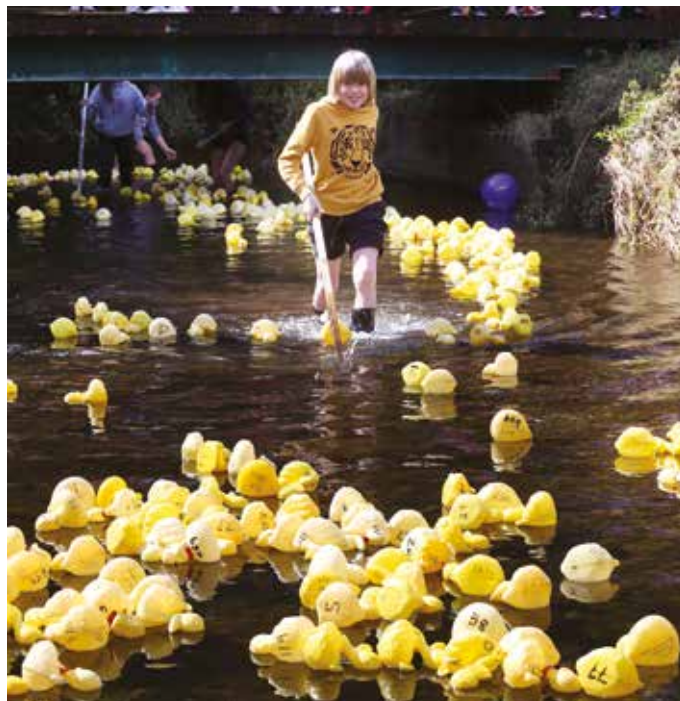
As the Party in the Park event was unable to be held in June because of Covid restrictions, some of its most popular elements will form part of the Duck Race afternoon.

Rotary Ponteland is once again calling upon local businesses to support the event by sponsoring a race or entering a boat in a dedicated race. Anyone interested in sponsoring a race or a boat is asked to contact info@rotaryponteland.org.uk.

Duck race tickets will be on public sale in local venues nearer the event. There will also be a "Spot the Duck" competition and an opportunity for children to design and construct their own boat and race it down the river.

The main charity beneficiary from this year's event is Children North-East, a charity celebrating its 130th anniversary this year.

More information will be published at rotaryponteland.org.uk and their Facebook page closer to the event.



And they're off...ducks racing in the 2019 event.



Jesmond Jetclean

Restores Drives, Paths and Patios

High Pressure Cleaning Services for:

- Block Paving
- Tarmac
- Decking
- Natural Stone
- Concrete
- Paving Slabs
- Seeded Resin
- Walls and Fences

FULL SEALING SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR LONG TERM PROTECTION



Before



After

Working safely throughout Covid19

For a FREE estimate call Peter on

07909 094 711

www.jesmondjetclean.co.uk



A beautiful natural burial ground located in the heart of Northumberland, close to Newcastle and Tyneside.



A SPECIAL RESTING PLACE

www.belsaywoodlandburials.com

BELSAY ESTATE OFFICE, BELSAY, NORTHUMBERLAND NE20 0DX
t:01661 881206 e:info@belsaywoodlandburials.com

Faye Dodds in training for her charity walk with mum Audrey.



Crohn's sufferer holds charity raffle and walk

A Ponteland beauty salon owner is taking part in a charity walk and raffle to raise funds for research into a painful condition she has suffered for 20 years.

Faye Dodds, who owns Heavenly Treatments, has Crohn's disease - a type of inflammatory bowel disease which can lead to abdominal pain, fatigue, weight loss and malnutrition.

She needs constant medication and a visit to a clinic for an Infiximab drip every eight weeks to treat the condition.

Faye, 39, said: "I've always wanted to raise money for the Crohn's and Colitis UK charity so I'm pleased I'm raising money for them this year.

"I'm doing a 10K charity walk on Monday June 21st at Saltwell Park in Gateshead with my mum Audrey and two friends and all the money from the walk and raffle is going to the charity.

"I'd like to thank all the businesses that have supported me with donations for the charity raffle and everyone sponsoring me for the 10K walk."

Prizes donated for the raffle include:

- A light grey leather handbag worth over £100
- Northumberland Country Zoo admission for two adults and two children
- Mr Mulligans Crazy Golf for two adults and two children
- £30 Co-op gift card
- Beauty hamper
- Alcohol and chocolates hamper
- Dog hamper
- Dog wash and blow dry at Pawfect Paws (two)
- Cat hamper
- Full chiropody treatment at West Road Chiropody Centre
- Reiki healing treatment at New Light (two)
- £20 to spend on Bee Healthy Products
- £10 gift voucher to use at Q Hair Design.

Faye is also donating a facial and massage of your choice at Heavenly Treatments.

She can be contacted at heavenly.treatments@yahoo.co.uk to purchase raffle tickets costing £1 each or five for £4. The raffle will be drawn in July.

To make a donation for the charity walk, visit Faye's fundraising page at mywalkit.org.uk/fundraising/faye-dodds-fundraising-page

**Boost
your child's
confidence**

Liz Burrin
Kumon Instructor **07765 051136**

#KumonKidsCanStudyAtHome

KUMON

Sold

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

When it matters most, only the best will do



The Red House | 2 Apperley Road | Stocksfield | Northumberland

*Join our many happy clients who have secured
a successful sale in 2021*

01434 622234



FINEST
PROPERTIES

finestproperties.co.uk