

pontnews&views

FREE monthly community magazine for Ponteland and district



65-home development
proposed for Darras Hall

Couple get right Royal surprise
on 71st wedding anniversary

Warning for dog owners after
complaints escalate

Gran's cancer battle inspires Matthew's 300-mile charity run

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How a singing Wren caught ex-sailor's eye

A Ponteland couple who met after serving in the Royal Navy at the end of World War Two were delighted to receive a card from the Queen, marking their 71st wedding anniversary.

John and Connie McLauchlin, both 95, thought their postman was joking when he knocked to personally hand them the Royal correspondence.

But their delight was tinged with a little sadness, given Her Majesty's recent personal loss after 73 years of marriage to Prince Philip.

Back in the late 1940s Connie sang in the Wrens (Women's Royal Naval Service) but it was when her family persuaded her to get up to sing Al Jolson standard 'April Showers' at a Newcastle social club that she caught former Royal Navy serviceman John's eye.

They were both 21 at the time, and later married at the city's St Mary's Cathedral on April 15th 1950.

John went on to serve Newcastle Breweries for 44 years, working

as an operations manager, while Connie became a supervisor at British Home Stores.

They were blessed with three children - daughters Clare and Ann and son John, and have four granddaughters - Jane, Lucy, Stephanie and Philippa - and seven great-grandchildren - Niamh, Ruby, Luca, Harper, Posy, Hugo and Elle.

Living in their own home at Peel House, Main Street, the couple are fortunate to have family close by. Ann and husband Stephen live at Pont Haugh, so are able to help with shopping and medical appointments.

Jane lives at The Lairage with husband Robbie and daughters Niamh and Ruby, while Stephanie and wife Danielle live at Ladywell Way with children Harper and Hugo - so all are able to visit often.

And from family not so close at hand like Philippa and her husband Dan, Pontelanders now living in Perth, Australia, with their daughter Posy, John and Connie receive regular letters and cards.

Stephanie said: "My mum Ann has supported them throughout lockdown by taking them their shopping, and they



received lots of postcards and phone calls from family.

"I made family videos and would visit gran and pa on their doorstep and video them singing so they could be part of the videos. One video was them singing 'We'll Meet Again' for VE Day. Gran, who sang in Ponteland ladies' choir at the Methodist Church, still loves to sing.

"They were thrilled to receive the card from the Queen. Gran said she was born two weeks before the Queen and her mum used to say 'I've got my Princess', which I thought was really sweet.

"Gran and pa are a wonderful inspiration to everyone who has the pleasure of knowing them."

John and Connie McLauchlin with their card from the Queen and on their wedding day in 1950. Photo by Barry Pells.

Clean sweep for Conservatives in town and county council elections

Conservative candidates once again enjoyed a clean sweep at the elections for town and county councillors for Ponteland's four wards – as the party took overall control at County Hall.

County councillors Richard Dodd (Ponteland North), Peter Jackson (Ponteland South with Heddon) and Veronica Jones (Ponteland West) were all re-elected. They were joined by

newly elected Lyle Darwin (Ponteland East with Stannington).

Ten town councillors were also re-elected, joined by newly elected James Ford (Ponteland North) and Nirmal Sehgal (Ponteland West).

Meanwhile Cara Kim McGuinness (Labour & Co-operative Party) was re-elected as the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner.

* Meet Ponteland's first ever lady Mayor: page 7.

Full list of results for the Northumberland County Council election

Ponteland East & Stannington

Lyle Robert Darwin
(Conservative Party) 1116
David Alan Armstrong
(Liberal Democrats) 245
Robert Hugh Turner
(Labour Party) 236

Ponteland North

Richard Dodd
(Conservative Party) 1152
Mark William Welburn Neale
(Liberal Democrats) 174
Simon Neale Railton
(Labour Party) 232

Ponteland South with Heddon

Mike Brown
(Labour Party) 320

Peter Alan Bradford Jackson
(Conservative Party) 985
Benjamin Clyde Mitchell
(Liberal Democrats) 147

Ponteland West

Michael Patrick Clarke
(Labour Party) 250
James McTaggart Greer
(Liberal Democrats) 102
Veronica Jones
(Conservative Party) 997

Full list of results for the Ponteland Town Council election

Ponteland North

Richard Dodd
(Conservative Party) 946
James Ford
(Conservative Party) 631
Christine Anne Greenwell
(Conservative Party) 809
Simon Neale Railton
(Labour Party) 319

Ponteland East*

Lyle Robert Darwin
(Conservative Party)
Karen Lesley Overbury
(Conservative Party)
Alan Varley
(Conservative Party)

Ponteland South*

Sufi Ahmed
(Conservative Party)
Alan Hall
(Conservative Party)
Susan Johnson
(Conservative Party)

Ponteland West

Christine Hazel Caisley
(Conservative Party) 564
Michael Patrick Clarke
(Labour Party) 236
Nirmal Sehgal
(Conservative Party) 406
Katrina Woodrow
(Conservative Party) 568
* All three Conservative Party candidates for the ward were elected

unopposed.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner election

First count result:

Duncan Carlyle Crute
(Conservative Party) 118,543
Julian Richard Kilburn
(Independent) 45,567
Peter James Maughan
(Liberal Democrat) 40,955
Cara Kim McGuinness
(Labour & Co-operative Party) 179,021

Final result with second preference votes taken into account (no candidate received 50% of the initial count):

Cara Kim McGuinness,
Labour and Co-operative
Party – 206,467
Duncan Carlyle Crute,
Conservative Party – 139,875

New Cabinet elected at County Hall

The new Cabinet was agreed at the first post-election meeting of Northumberland County Council held at County Hall on May 26th.

Coun Glen Sanderson was formally re-elected as Council Leader. He announced his Deputy Leader Coun Richard Wearmouth – also portfolio holder for Corporate Services.

The remaining Cabinet members and other positions are:

- Adult Wellbeing - Coun Wendy Pattison
- Business – Coun Wojciech Ploszaj
- Children and Young People – Coun Guy Renner-Thompson
- Community Services – Coun Colin Horncastle
- Healthy Lives – Coun Jeff Watson
- Local Services – Coun John Riddle
- Business Chair – Coun Barry Flux
- Civic Head – Coun James Hutchinson
- Deputy Civic Head – Coun Trevor Cessford.

Grandma's early cancer diagnosis inspires Matthew's 300-mile charity run

When Matthew Secker heard his grandma Sandra had bowel cancer, he decided to do something to help fund the screening programme which gave her an early diagnosis.

So in February he embarked on a challenge to run the equivalent 306 miles to Sandra's home in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, before her birthday on June 4th to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

The Year 4 pupil at Darras Hall Primary School has been regularly spotted on his runs around the estate over the past few months and has enjoyed huge support from his teachers and classmates, as well as mum Emma, dad Richard and siblings Adam and Kate.

His class teacher Mr Glendinning quickly set up a course around the school so that Matthew could complete some of the distance with school friends, whilst teaching assistant Miss Day has run two miles around the school site on a Tuesday with him after school.

Thanks to this support Matthew, nine, of Middle Drive, Darras Hall, has already smashed his fundraising target of £306, with donations topping £1,300.

Richard, a PE teacher at St Joseph's Middle School in Hexham, said: "We are so proud of Matthew's determination to complete this challenge. He has shown a great commitment to go out every day and walk or run three miles even when the weather has been bad or when he has been tired after school. He has had great support from his brother and sister – it has been a real family effort!"

Richard's mum Sandra, who celebrates her golden wedding anniversary with Gordon this summer, was equally impressed. She said: "When Matthew told me that he was going to do the challenge I thought that it was a lovely idea to raise some important funds for Cancer Research UK, as without the screening system I would not have got such an early diagnosis and treatment.

"Hearing his stories about how far he has travelled and how much he has raised has been something for me to look forward to and I can't wait to give him and all of my grandchildren a hug when we eventually see each other again."

Anyone wishing to contribute to Matthew's appeal can do so via: justgiving.com/fundraising/matthewrunningtogivegrandmaahug

Photos: Matthew completes another mile of his charity challenge at Darras Hall Primary School. Also pictured with grandma Sandra. Pics by Barry Pells.



LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I
Robert Andrew O'Rourke**

have submitted an application for a Premises Licence
in respect of:

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THE PROPOSED APPLICATION IS FOR:

The sale of alcohol in Restaurant & Farm Shop for
consumption on and off the premises.

A record of the application may be inspected during
normal office hours at the offices of
Northumberland County Council, County Hall,
Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

Any objections to this application must be sent in
writing stating grounds of objection to:-

The Chief Executive, Northumberland County Council,
County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF

Not later than 30/6/21

Dated this: 3rd June 2021

NOTE: It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection
with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary
conviction for the offence, will apply.



65-home scheme proposed for Western Way

Plans have been announced for a 65-home development at the southern tip of Darras Hall.

Housing association Karbon Homes, architect IDPartnership and builder Esh Living said 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 proposed scheme would include ten two bedroom bungalows, 24 three bedroom homes, seven two bedroom homes and 24 two bedroom apartments suitable for retirement living.

In a website launched to gather feedback on the plans, the developers say: "A focus of this development will be to allow local people who have perhaps had to move out of the area to find accommodation that meets their needs, to return back to their roots, whether that be young local people starting out on the property ladder or those that wish to downsize to more suitable accommodation."

"Our aim is to offer local people the chance to get on the home ownership ladder through Rent to Buy and Shared Ownership. We are also looking to include homes for older people who may want to downsize and continue to live independently."

"Careful consideration has been given by the design team to ensure a high quality simple and contemporary architectural solution in keeping with the local area."

Karbon Homes, IDPartnership and Esh Living say all of the comments received via the website at westernwayhomes.com will be taken into account in the submission of their application for planning permission.

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Ponteland elects first ever lady Mayor

Ponteland Town Council has its first ever lady Mayor.

After serving eight years as a town councillor, four years as Chair of Highways and four years as Deputy Mayor, Councillor Christine Greenwell has been elected Mayor of Ponteland. Coun Karen Overbury is Deputy Mayor.

During her time as a Town Councillor Coun Greenwell has been involved in the remodelling of the public toilets and the installation of new speed indicator display signs in Medburn, Prestwick, Ponteland and Darras Hall.

Working alongside council colleagues, other projects included the installation of a columbarium and the remodelling and landscaping of the woodland burial site at the cemetery, working with youth services to provide outreach workers and employing an environmental officer.

Coun Greenwell, of Station Cottages, Ponteland, has also supported the Town Council in the protection of the green belt, installation of raised bus stops and the design of the new play park.

Describing her election as “an honour and a privilege”, Coun Greenwell said: “I am part of a great team at Ponteland Town Council who all work hard to keep Ponteland and district the beautiful historic area it is.

“I, along with my fellow councillors and the staff at the Town Council, will continue to strive towards keeping and improving the district of Ponteland for the benefit of all who live and work here.”



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Fun and recreation: much more important than work

By David Lamb

We all understand the need to work; it puts food on the table and pays the mortgage.

It's so important, very early in our children's lives we will be asking them 'what you want to do when you grow up?' Conversely, fun and recreation is often seen as something we could do without if we had to. But it is much more important than that.

Fun and recreation can reduce stress. Too much stress can increase our cortisol levels, which can lead to lack of sleep, headaches, low energy levels and ultimately high blood pressure and heart disease.

Many studies have also shown that people who exercise and learn throughout life are much less likely to suffer from dementia or have heart disease.

Leaving a career at retirement can leave a big gap in people's lives and unbalance their lifestyle. It is a gap that must be filled, and just as important a question for retirement planning as 'how much do I need in my pension fund?'

Calculating the cost of fun and recreation in retirement in your cash flow projections is essential. We always recommend assuming expenditure on sports and hobbies will increase and suggest

doubling the cost of holidays between retirement and age 80.

We see a lot of people who do not prioritise fun and recreation. They end up not taking enough time off work and can often take work away on holiday with them.

Not only can this have a massively detrimental effect on the third most important component of a balanced lifestyle – relationships – but it is not very healthy and can have a negative impact on the second most important – emotional health.

The first thing I do when making my business plan for the year is allocate time for holidays because if you

don't, they can be left to the last minute, fitting around work. Ideally, work should fit around fun and recreation.

For those that don't think fun and recreation is important, the next time you're sat down with a cup of tea try this: hold your full mug at arm's-length. Is it heavy? Probably not. Now hold it there, still at arm's length, for 10 minutes. Is it heavy now? Yes, and getting heavier.

Put the mug down for couple of minutes then pick it up again and hold at arm's length. It will be a lot lighter than before. Fun and recreation has the same effect on your emotional health. You need the break!



New dog owners urged to train pets properly

Dog owners are being advised to act responsibly after increased reports of fouling and pets wandering off their leads in Ponteland's public spaces.

Environmental Enforcement Officer Dave Foy said anyone he or colleagues sees failing to pick up their dog's waste will receive an on-the-spot £100 fixed penalty fine.

The growth in dog ownership during the past 15 months since the first lockdown has also led to increased concerns about dog behaviour in Ponteland Park and the many lanes around the town.

Dave (pictured) said: "Allowing your dog to jump on other dogs, children and adults can create an unpleasant environment. Jumping up, mobbing and stealing may be naturally self-rewarding behaviours but we do not want to perpetuate them.

"Early and continuing, positive training and control will soon teach your dog more socially acceptable and equally rewarding behaviours."

He has also published a checklist for new owners on responsible dog ownership in public spaces:



- Never allow your pup to just wander up to people. Teach your pup that interaction with humans and other dogs is by invitation and under your direction. Help them to learn that them sticking with you gets a reward.
- Do not let your dog mob or rush at other humans or strange dogs. All dogs should earn their freedom by

having good recall, self-control and manners.

- Attend training early on. There are lots of online training courses on offer. A search of the internet will soon reveal the many resources available and training venues reopening.
- Use a long line. This way your dog can enjoy degrees of freedom. Dogs do need interaction with other dogs but recall them frequently and move on; reward compliance handsomely. Look for suitable off-lead contexts and limit duration. Teach your pups to approach adult dogs and all humans calmly and with respect.

Dave is hoping owners respond positively, but warns he can enforce the Northumberland County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2020 if necessary. He said: "The combination of a responsible owner and well trained dog is the sure fire way to keep everyone happy."

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Darras Hall - Autumn 2019

Your letters

A correspondent raises the issue of increasing litter in this month's letters...

The Editor
Pont News & Views



Picked up one week along the Bridleway



Litter, litter everywhere...

We hope it is only a minority of people who choose to drop litter. However, a thoughtless few seem to have been increasingly very busy.

Litter is everywhere, from the pavements outside our homes, roadside verges, hedgerows, bridleway footpaths, car parks, the fields, waterways, and the woodlands around us.

Sadly as well as spoiling our environment, wildlife also suffers.

Is dropping litter a symptom of our disordered, affluent throwaway society? The problem seems insurmountable but I would like to think that every time I pick up a bit of litter that does make a difference.

Isn't prevention always better than a cure and encouraging and educating people not to litter more effective than relying on punishment by the Local Authority with on-the-spot fines?

I do not want to leave a shameful legacy of litter but changing attitudes is a difficult and slow process, so until people choose not to litter perhaps we can show everyone cares for where we live by joining the Rotary Litter Pick on Sunday June 13th.

Jane Hodson-Hamilton
Errington Road, Darras Hall

The River Pont near Richmond Way



July issue deadlines: The deadline for all copy and adverts for the July issue is Monday June 14th. Door to door distribution will be from Monday June 28th to Friday July 2nd. Businesses should be aware that all bookings for advertisements must be paid in full by the deadline to ensure placement in the July 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

All being well our August monthly meeting and talk will be at St Mary's Parish Centre. We will keep you updated on any changes regarding this. In the meantime the next two Zoom events are: Wednesday June 2nd at 2pm – Virtual u3a Day. Talk - L.S. Lowry by Ian McArdle. Wednesday July 7th at 2pm – Behind the bathroom door (Hygiene through the ages) by Liza Jones. Links to these talks will be placed in the relevant Ponteland Facebook groups and on the Ponteland u3a website. These talks are available for members and non-members alike. Apologies to those members who do not have internet access but all being well we'll meet in August. We welcome enquiries from anyone wishing to join Ponteland u3a. The contact number for the membership secretary is 01661 824953. In the meantime keep safe and well.

Wilde Farm Outdoor Market

Wilde Farm's Outdoor Market will be held at Ponteland Memorial Hall from 10am to 2pm on Sunday June 13th and Sunday June 27th. 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 June 14th is by David Faulkner on the subject of 'A house through time' 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 pontlandsgc@gmail.com.

Ponteland Village WI

Members of Ponteland Village WI are keeping busy, despite ongoing restrictions. The Walking Group has restarted, with teams of six getting together, Cycling for Softies and Walking for Softies are also meeting. 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 and informative. The monthly newsletter helps members to stay in touch, find out what's going on in the group and 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

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 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.

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having around"*
A new parent.



Last few days to enter squirrel and hedgehog hunt

There are just a few days left to take part in Rotary Ponteland's squirrel and hedgehog hunt for a chance to win a £10 book token.

The squirrels have been placed in the trees and the hedgehogs in the hedges and shrubbery, and children are being challenged to find the hidden objects and mark their position on a map of the park.

There are two age groups, under-8s and eight to 14 years, with the winners of each age group receiving a £10 book token. There is still time to enter the event, which started on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend and runs until Sunday June 6th at 6pm.

Organiser John Cooper said "Rotary Ponteland are pleased that many families have taken part in the event and enjoyed hunting for our hidden squirrels and hedgehogs. It is a simple event, but one which has proven to be very popular."

To take part, download full instructions and a map of the park at rotaryponteland.org.uk or via the Rotary Ponteland Facebook page.

Mobile breast screening unit comes to Ponteland

All women aged between 50 and 70 in Ponteland will be invited to book a mammogram at a mobile breast screening unit which will be based in the town for the next four months.

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.




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As a Church of England school, we strongly believe that each child is uniquely made in the image of God and equally loved by Him, with their own strengths, interests and personality. Our core purpose is to ensure that children receive a stimulating, exciting and relevant curriculum with opportunities to explore their interests which will enable them to become life-long learners and reach their full potential.

Since becoming a primary school in 2017, we have continued to steadily grow while retaining our special family-like feel; adults and children working and learning together.

There is a vibrant and exciting Early Years Unit where nursery and reception children learn, play and explore together both inside and outside in our large rural site. The nursery offers 30 hours' provision, arranged to meet the needs of children and parents, and the single unit means that there is a seamless transition into reception.

Alongside academic excellence, all children have a wide range of experiences including regular forest school activities, high quality singing and music lessons from our specialist teacher, superb sports provision alongside team building and resilience activities provided by NUFC and Commando Joes - as well as many activities based in and around the village and trips further afield, including abroad. Exciting transition activities and projects help our children move with confidence to the High School.



Mental health and wellbeing is supported by our fantastic staff and the 'Thrive' approach as well as through access to counselling and educational psychology services.

The out of school club offers excellent wraparound provision from 7.30am until 9am and from 3.10pm-6pm, as well as some holiday provision too.

Our motto 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' reflects our expectations of staff and children and the love of ourselves and each other that is central to all we do.

We welcome visits to the School.

**Please contact the School Office
on 01661 853350**



Would you like to join our editorial group?

Are you interested in local news? Would you like to be involved in your community magazine Pont News, which has published monthly for 16 years?

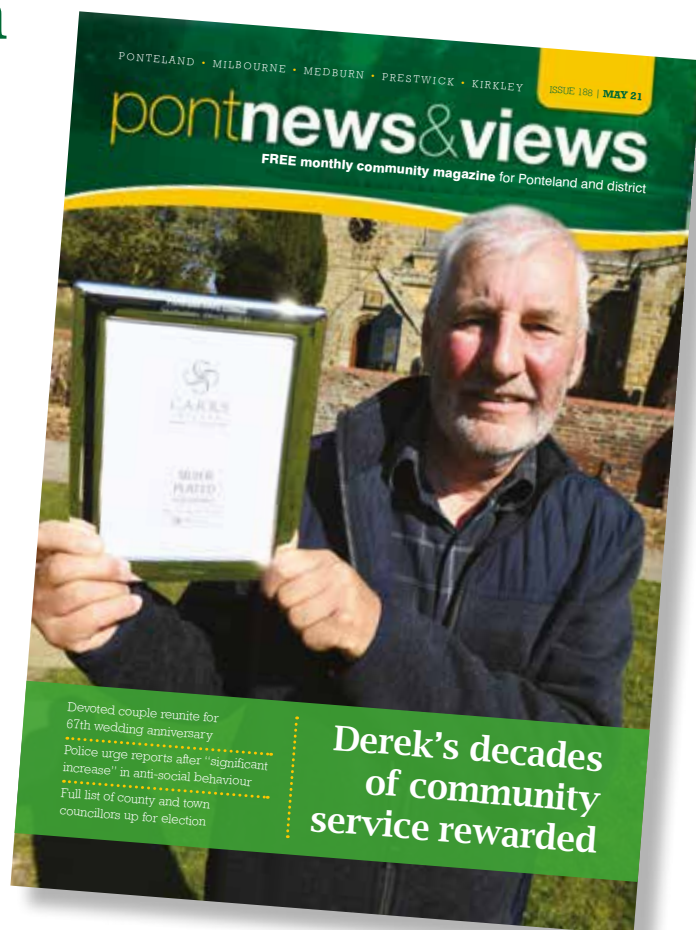
We are looking for two volunteers to join the Pont News editorial group, which receives advance copies of each issue to proof and provide feedback by email/phone.

The group also meets infrequently to receive reports regarding the finances of the not-for-profit publication, discuss editorial and advertising, or to deal with any other issues that the editor, Town Council clerk or any other group member wishes to raise.

The two vacancies have arisen following the demise of Ponteland Community Partnership, a partner in the magazine since it was first published in 2005. PCP had two members on the editorial group and the Town Council, as publisher, wants to retain independent community representation and input.

If you are interested in applying for the volunteer position, please contact Kath Mavin, Clerk to the Council, at enquiries@ponteland-tc.gov.uk providing brief details of your background and experience and why you feel you are suitable for the role.

Applications should be made in writing to the email address above by Wednesday June 30th.



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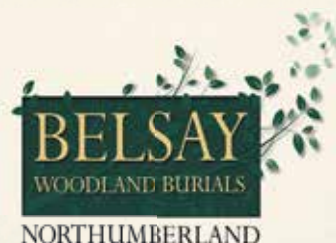
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